*www.jaypex.com/Exhibits/HU/synopsis07-2.doc*

Feb. 16, 2007 (Chicagopex 2007)

**Synopsis**

Local Emergency Measures in Eastern Hungary, 1944-45

**Background**

The Red Army swept through Hungary in late 1944 and early 1945. With only a few exceptions, there was very little disruption of the postal system during and after this action. This **one frame** exhibit tells the story of three such exceptions. Each was the result of totally different circumstances.

| | |
|---|---|
| Gyula | Postal employees fled as the Red Army crossed the border. |
| Nyíregyháza | Former postmaster absconded with stamps and other supplies. |
| Abony | Shortage of high value stamps at the beginning of the inflation. |

**Exhibit History**

This exhibit received a Vermeil award at AmeriStamp Expo in Toronto (April 7-9, 2006).

**Challenge Factor**

This material rarely appears on the market outside of Hungary. A couple of Budapest auctions usually offer this type of material. A wait of many years is often necessary before needed material comes on the market.

**Organization of Exhibit**

The material is presented in chronological order – Gyula first, then Nyíregyháza and finally Abony.

**References**

All of the detailed references are (unfortunately) in Hungarian:

1. "Magyar Posta- és Illetékbékyeg Katalôgus", published annually (includes Nyíregyháza and Abony)
2. "A Magyar Bélyegek Kézikönyve", Budapest, 1986 (includes Nyíregyháza and Abony, plus a brief discussion of Gyula)

3. "A Magyar Bélyegek Monográfiája" vol. V, Budapest, 1967 (includes coverage of Gyula)
4. "A Magyar Bélyegek Monográfiája" vol. VII, Budapest, 1981 (includes coverage of Nyíregyháza and Abony)

There is no detailed coverage of these issues in English. The Society for Hungarian Philately has published a few short articles in "News of Hungarian Philately", but these barely scratch the surface.

A translation of the section on Nyíregyháza and Abony from Monográfiája VII can be viewed online at <http://www.jaypex.com/Exhibits/HU/ChapterIII.htm> or downloaded as a .doc file (34 Mb!) from <http://www.jaypex.com/Exhibits/HU/ChapterIII.doc>.

**Internet Availability**

This exhibit is available on the Internet at <http://www.jaypex.com/Exhibits/HUlocals.html> as well as at
<http://www.japhila.cz/hof/0042/index0042a.htm>. Any changes to the exhibit will be initially reflected in the first link.

Chapter III by Jay T. Carrigan
http://www.jaypex.com/Exhibits/HU/ChapterIII.htm

## LOCAL STAMP ISSUES IN 1944-1945 AND 1956

*from "A Magyar Belyegek Monografiaja", Vol. VII by Laszlo Pakozdi and Dr. Bela Simady*

### 1944 NYÍREGYHÁZA (I)

A local emergency stamp issue consisting of two denominations.

Certain experts look upon this issue as *semi-official*, with reference to the fact that certain postal directorates (e.g. Miskolc) objected to the putting into circulation of the Nyíregyháza stamps, but the (at that time) resident in Debrecen Ministry of Commerce and Transportation of the Provisional National Government came to hear of the stamp issues and did not protest against this, moreover it also petitioned the leader of the Nyíregyháza 1 post office in writing in the affair of manufacturing of greater quantities of stamps (see below).

Our point of view is that, while only acknowledging the praisworthy initiative of the leader of the office in alleviating the stamp shortage, it is still not possible for us to consider the two Nyíregyháza issues to be semi-official, because the lower postal organs were not authorized, under extraordinary circumstances, for the issuanlce of postage stamps. According to the postal regulations, in the case of a stamp shortage, the standard *cash payment of postage* must be employed, as is also proved by the existing correspondence material of the period.

In opposition to this - albeit in the first place on account of financial reasons - in the manufacture of the stamps and postal cards an administrative organ, the Nyíregyháza Finance Directorate, also took upon itself a significant role, indeed for fiscal purposes the stamps were obliterated, that is to say "authenticated", with the round rubber stamp of the tax office.

The putting into circulation of the first-issued Nyíregyháza emergency stamps and postal cards did not escape the attention of the responsible officials, that is in the first place the Ministry of Commerce and Transportation of the Provisional National Government, as well as the co-located provisional General Postal Directorate. (Especially many Nyíregyháza postal cards arrived at the Debrecen office of the Hun,garian Red Cross.) As we quote in the following, the responsible minister himself, *Ferenc Gábor*, did not raise objections against the putting into circulation of the stamps, moreover he thought about the wider application of them. But we quote the January 1945 correspondence of the ministry and the post office, the numerous inferences of which gives the possibility of deduction. Quoting:

*"Hungarian Ministry of Commerce and Transportation, Debrecen 86/1945. M. C. T.*

Post Office
*Nyíregyháza*

It has come to my attention that the Nyíregyháza Financial Directorate has printed postage stamps, and that these stamps are being used in local as well as certain rural offices.

I request a detailed reporting of how many pieces and what denomination,s of stamps the office received, and from these how many were lused up in the prepayment of postage and how many are still on hand.

Considering the possibility you should also establish what the relevant situation is in the rural post offices.

You should also get in contact with the manufacturing printer and you should call in from him a detailed quantitative proposal of what kind of the sort of paper material and in what quantity stands at his disposal for the purpose of printing postage stamps. Separately you should also touch upon the question of the watermark. You should also put in the report the technical questions of manufacturing.

Debrecen, January 25, 1945

F. Gábor (in his own hand)

(Minister of Commerce of Hungary) Commerce and Transportation Minister"

The leader of the post office, *Károly Sabjányi*, the scope of whose activity was already provided for on the basis of the instructions of the Debrecen Postal Directorate, sent in the following report:

*"Post Office Nyíregyháza 1.*
February 22, 1945

78/1945 Subject: Stamp Affair

*M.C.T.*

*order no. 86/1945*

enclosed: 1 piece
Hungarian Ministry of Commerce and Transportation

*Debrecen*

I report that this office, with the assistance of the local finance directorate, for the purpose of utilization took delivery of the following amounts of printed postage stamps: 4992 pieces 20 and 5004 pieces 40 filler postage stamps, moreover 12000 pieces of postal cards provided with a 20 filler value insignia. From these, to the present day the entire quantity of stamps has been used up, moreover 11,732 pieces of postal cards.

In the course of selling certain rural post offices also bought such stamps from us, probably then the surrounding post offices are also lacking in postage stamps.

I respectively submit therewith the enclosed proposal drawn in from the manufacturing printer, but the printery did not make a statement concerning the questions relating to the manufacturing techniques.

(signature)

postal supervisor

office director"

**Background**

In September of 1944 the Red Army began its military operations for the liberation of Hungary. The Soviet troops crossed the Trianon frontier on September 25, 1944 and on September 26th liberated Battonya and Mako, as well as Debrecen on October 19th, 1944 in the course of the northeastern military operations. The liberation of *Nyíregyháza* took place on *October 31, 1944* only after hard battles.

The city was in a truly deploring condition because of continued heavy battles for its possession. The destruction of the Nyíregyháza 1 post office was not avoided, which was for the first time already heavily damaged in the air attacks of September 17, 1945. In the course of the battles the office building was hit by bombs, and the retreating German formations blew up the telephone repeater station.

The general postal situation of each county and city was identical with that described in the literature. The postal service became completely paralyzed due to material and personnel deficiencies. The former office director left the city and took with him the stamp supply and the cancellers (with one exception}. After the liberation of the city, the new mayor and the soviet military commander of the city held it necessary for the earliest possible starting up of postal service, not in the least case the insuring of the material base for it. The reconstruction of the post office and the setting up of service was entrusted to a professional postal controller, *Ödön Gimes*, who on about November 10th took over the reconstruction and direction of the office.

**The History of the First Issue**

The first postal service of the office extended to the letter post. The lack of the necessary postage stamps almost paralyzed this however. For this reason Lajos Boros recommended to Ödön Gimes, the entrusted office leader, that since within a forseeable time there did not appear to be the possibility of funds for the procurement of postage stamps, they should surmount the difficulties which arose with a local emergency solution.

Ödön Gimes discussed the local solution to the arisen problem with captain *Nicolaj Dogiu*, the post office's soviet commander, who approved the emergency solution -local manufacture of stamps and postal cards -and consented to it.

Ödön Gimes subsequently called upon Károly Venkovits, proprieter of the Nyíregyháza printery, who had at his disposal gummed paper and, for the manufacture of postal cards, the necessary white card stock. Thus Ödön Gimes could have given the order for the planning of a 20 and a 40 filler denominated stamp and for the preparation of proof impressions. Although the thought of planning astamp design of higher standard occurred, with the lack of an adequate expert - and in consideration of the printery's technical facilities - *Károly Vlenkovits* became entrusted with the planning of the stamp designs.

Serious difficulties already presented themselves with the first step, ordering. The Nyíregyháza 1 post office did not have cash at its disposal, thus they were not ableto undertake the ordering of the postage stamps and postal cards. For this reason they began negotiations with *Ármin Seeberg*, a retired councillor of the finance ministry,who the Nyíregyháza finance directorate entrusted as its director. The finance directorate already had cash at its disposal from tax and revenue income. Both *Ödön Gimes*, as well as *Károly Sabjányi*, his successor designated on February 15, 1945 by the Debrecen postal directorate, thought that the right of fabricating stamps, as in the past century, belonged to the sphere of influence of the finance directorate. Beside this

erroneous concept, it also possibly came into account that with the participation of the local tax office, the issuance of stamps was legalized.
After this the Nyíregyháza finance directorate ordered the new postage stamps at Venkovits. After their preparation, the post office turned over and delivered the "whole" stock to the finance directorate, where it was outfitted with a violet double ring official stamp, 25-26 mm in diameter, with the inscription "M. KIR. ADÓHIVATAL NYÍREGYHÁZA" {Hungarian Royal Tax Office Nyíregyháza, decorated with laurel branches and provided with a crowned Hungarian signum. The word "whole" in quotes was done on purpose. The newest philatelic research proves that there exist copies of stamps as well as postal cards that turned up in the hands of collectors from which the tax office stamp is missing. This seems to prove that from the first issue somewhat more stamps were prepared than were delivered to the post office and stamped by the tax office.

According to Ödön Gimes, the reason that the tax office stamp came into being was "*in order that our activity would have an even more official form*", according to Lajos Boros, "*in order that it would not be possible to imitate, and to have proper credibility with the public*". (The thoroughness of this later concept gains justification under the fabrication of forgeries.)

A long dispute about the organizing of the material aspects of the issueances occurred between the local finance directorate and the postoffice, which finally gained a solution with the fact that the post office repaid the finance directorate for its expenses incurred in the printing from income derived from sales in the intervening period.

**Period of Use**

The first issue of Nyíregyháza emergency stamps entered into circulation in the *middle of December, 1944*. According to an oral communication of Lajos Boros this took place on *December 16th*. The so-far known *earliest use is December 18th*. Their circulation ceased due to exhaustion of stock. The emptying of the stock made justifiable the issuance of the 2nd issue in February 1945.

**Sale**

The Nyíregyháza post office used the stamps in the first place for the satisfaction of its own, local demand. It also transferred smaller quantities to the offices of the surrounding Szabolcs county, thus their usage is also known from other localities of Szabolcs county. *István Sugár*, in the processing of his preliminary research said that (for understandable reasons) collectors did not present themselves with a demand for the purchasing of the first series.

Thus the occurrence of *genuine* unused examples of the 1st issue of Nyíregyháza stamps is *quite rare*.

*The denominations and number of examples of the series*:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 20 fillér | yellow/black | 4992 copIes |
| 40 fillér | pink/black | 5004 copIes |

Ill. 360 – First Issue

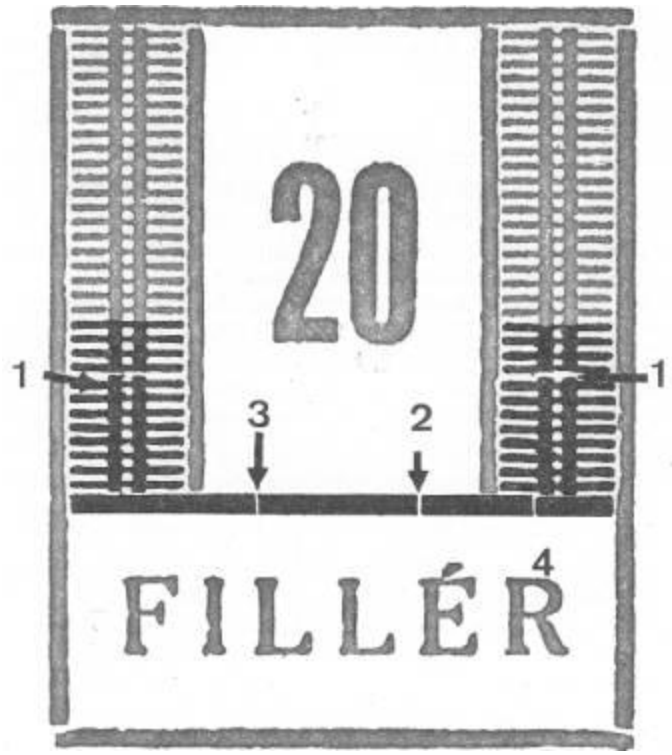
The *design of the stamps* is similar with the exception of the figures of values. The design is divided in the middle into two fields by a horizontal line. In the upper empty field the numeral of value occupies a place with decorating elements consisting of on two sides vertical and horizontal lines called "*border pieces*" according to a communication of Venkovits. The signal of value "FILLÉR" lies in the lower-lying rectangle-shaped white field.

The stamp picture stands in the shape of a rectangle, measuring 22.8 × 28.8 mm (Ill. 360).

**Characteristic Signs**

The knowledge of these is of truly great significance in the identification of the genuine, the reprint, as well as the forgeries (see Ill. 361).

1. The vertical parallel lines are broken between the 8th and 9th horizontal lines from the bottom on every left and right border piece. The interval between the horizontal lines is here 0.3 mm as opposed to 0.2 mm for the others. This is easily perceptible with the naked eye. *This flaw is identical for most ssues* (even for the postal cards), for this reason we also regard it as an *engraving flaw*. (see Ill. 361, no. 1.)




Ill. 361 – Characteristic Signs

2. The upper line of the rectangle-shaped frame surrounding the word "FILLÉR" is *broken* at a distance measuring 6.8-7.4 mm from the right end, being assembled from two *line segments*. This charactistic flaw can be found on most stamps in sheets of both denominations. The gap either shows itself strongly (even easily perceptible with the naked eye), or is fitted together so well that its occurence can be established only with the greatest attention. (see Ill. 361, no. 2.)

3. Such copies are known from certain sheet positions on which the rupture of the earlier-mentioned upper horizontal line is on the *left side*, lying 7.5-7.6 mm, distant from the end.

According to what we have established up to now, we encounter this characteristic flaw on copies of the *20 filler denomination* sheet position *6*, moreover positions *9 and 10*, as well as positions *9 and l0* of the *40 filler denomination* (see Ill. 3, no. 3).

It is certain that this line was *assembled from three pieces, and is observable only in one or two sheet positions because of the assembly mistake characteristic of the insertion mentioned in point 3*.

4. A peculiarity of the 40 filler stamps is the occurence of two types of numeral - thin and fat (Ill.3623). Presumably the printer did not have at his disposal sufficient identical types of the numeral 40, thus the 9th and 12th sheet positions received a *fat numeral 40*. Because of the two different types of numerals, the stamp picture also changes its character; for this reason we must classify the 40 filler denomination into two types. Thus:

*Type I:* the numerals measure 5 × 6.8 mm.
*Type II:* the numerals measure 9.7 × 7.5 mm.

They were *printed in typography* (letterpress) in a single run in the printery of Károly Venkovits in Nyíregyháza, on an unknown type of press.

Ill. 362 – Numeral 40 in Types I and II

**Characteristic Flaws of Plate Positions**

The printing of the stamp sheets In typography, from handset type.

Because the printing material used was strongly worn out, greater or lesser plate errors can also be found in most denominations of both issues, whereas the border design of most genuine stamps is identical. Thus, this can also be employed for the reconstruction of complete sheets from single stamps.

In the first place it must be admitted that certain sheet positions (1, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 12) are unambiguosly ascertainable from the perforations (perforated vs. imperforate sides). Independently from this we enumerate the undermentioned characteristic flaws - originating from the typographic process -known up to this point. For those sheet positions which we do not have a knowledge of up to this point, we refer to the perforations.

*Position 1:* The left side of the stemof the letter “I” is strongly damaged and defective.

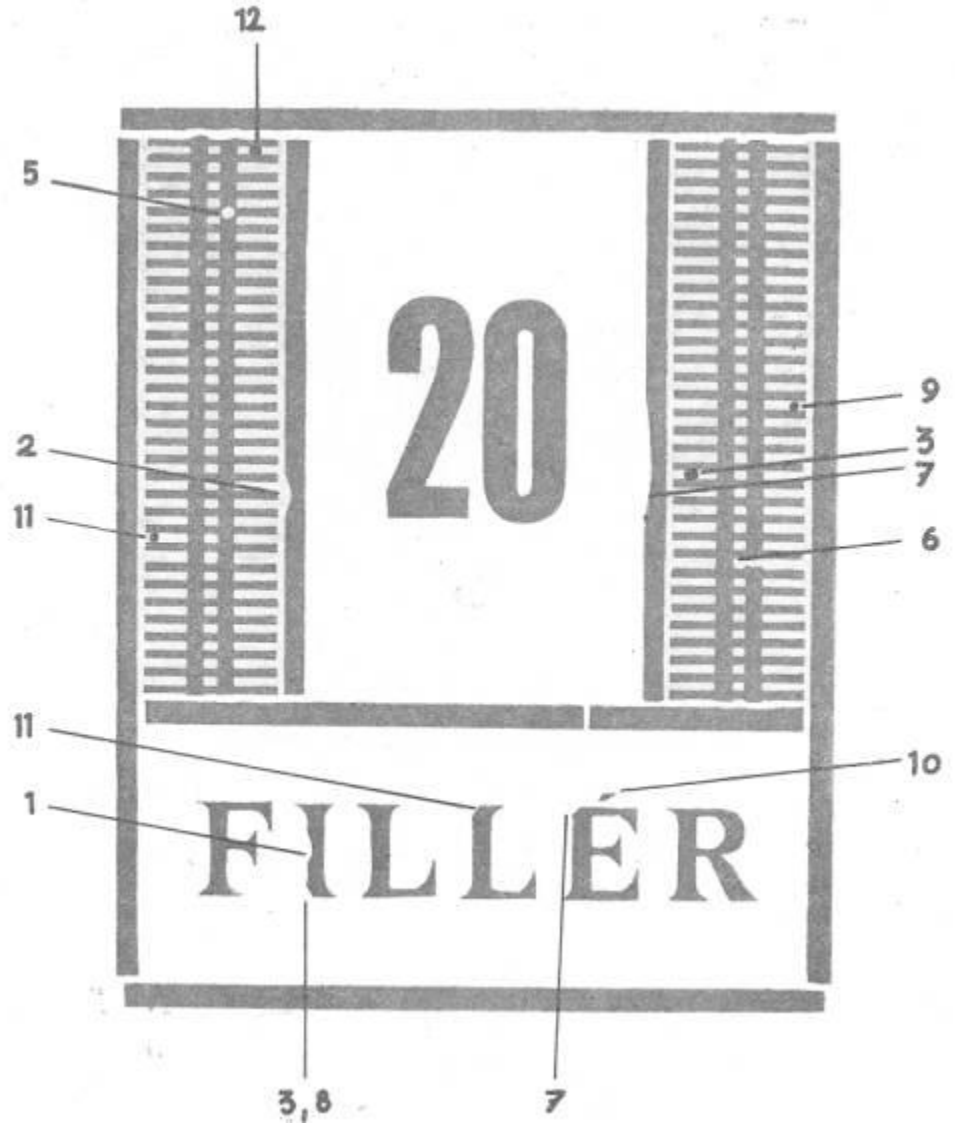
*Position 2:* On the left side of the 4$^{th}$ vertical frame line of the left side border piece, in height encompassing the 11th to 13th horizontal lines from the bottom, is strongly damaged with an inward curve.

*Position 3:* The lower left corner of the letter "I" is receding, and there is a large black point between the 13th & 14th horizon tal lines in the left side sector of the right side border piece.

*Position 4:* The upper and right sides are imperforate.

*Position 5:* In the 3rd vertical line of the left side border piece there is a round white speck at the location of the 5th horizontal line.

*Positon 6:* Perforated on four sides, the cut at the 2nd vertical line of the right side border piece is *closed* (characteristic 1).




Ill. 362A – Characteristic Flaws

*Position 7:* The left upper corner of the letter "E" is receding, also the 1st vertical line of the right side border piece is damaged slightly below the middle by a slight inward hollowing.

*Position 8:* The lower corner of the letter "I" is receding.

*Position 9:* There is a small black point between the 17th and 18th horizontal lines in the 3rd sector of the right side border piece.

*Position 10:* The accent of the letter "E" is much shorter than the others.

*Position 11:* The left half of the vertical stem of the second letter "L" is receding, and there is a tiny black dot between the 9th & 10th vertical lines from the in the 1st sector of the left side border piece.

*Position 12:* There is a large black smudge between the 1st & 2nd horizontal lines in the 3rd sector of the left side border piece.

**Reprints**

In a general order of the Debrecen Postal Directorate dated *June 8, 1945*, dispatched to most post offices and postal agencies under its management, the following may be read:
*"A part of the offices endeavored to alleviate the stamp deficiency occuring as a result of the extraordinary conditions through the usage of emergency stamps and cancellers.*

*According to information the emergency stamps in the traffic were stamps prepared with an overprint (this is presumably a word about the Abony emergency issue), but in certain localities stamp-like vignettes were manufactured (presumably a reference to the Nyíregyháza issue). With respect to these and with reference to my decree you are requested to make a report giving the circumstances of manufacture, and also extending to the method of manufacture, the size of the edition, and other essential circumstances, and as a supplement to this you should submit if possible three specimens each, but at least one each, of the emergency stamps for purposes of placement in the Stamp Museum. I await a report only from those offices where the above events took place.*

*If stocks of the Nyíregyháza emergency stamps are already not at your disposal, you should cause to be made, under strict supervision, with the employment of the originally-used paper, ink and printing implements, a few series for the purpose of the museum, and you should submit these to here. You should account for the expenses in a petty operating statement."*

It deserves mentioning that the Debrecen Postal Directorate did not mention the sending-in of emergency postal cards for the purposes of the museum.

When the Nyíregyháza 1 post office took this order in hand on June 9, 1945, it already did not have at its disposal Nyíregyháza emergency stamps of the *first issue*. For this reason, for the purpose of satisfaction of the arisen demands, they called upon the proprietor Károly Venkovits for the manufacture of the stamps. However the issue's *original* cliches were taken apart after the original ordered quantities, thus - in principle - new printing cliches had to be made for the preparation of the museum specimens.

Before we can go further, perhaps it would not be superfluous to clarify a few concepts. In philately, we speak of *new printings* when from an *official* order they print the stamps anew with the *original cliches*. (E.g. the 1883 copper-plate series and newspaper stamps.) *Reprints* are stamps printed from new cliches, which depending on the nature of the ordering could be official or private.

Reprints were prepared in this instance. The skillful-handed Venkovits made the typesetting of the reprints in identical form with the originals in dimension and in numeral types. *He committed a technical error, however, based on which it is easy to distinguish the reprints from the genuine stamps.*

**Characteristic Signs of the Reprints**

The earlier-mentioned typographical error is visible on the upper line of the horizontal rectangle-shaped frame surrounding the value indication FILLÉR.

In contrast to the character of such markings on genuine stamps, on *all* sheet positions of the reprinted sheets, this *breaking of the line* is to the left of the straight line parallel to the right side border piece, lying a *distance of 3 mm from the edge*, as opposed to 6.8 -7.4 mm. This *common characteristic sign* is truly strong, and is easily ascertainable on stamps no matter what sheet position they originate from (Ill. 2, no. 4).

In the earlier technical literature it may be read that on *June 27, 1945* the office submitted two sheets each (24 stamps each) printed with the new cliches to the Debrecen Postal Directorate, from whence they arrived to the museum for preservation. In reality it happened otherwise, to which the origin of the forgeries also supplies an explanation.

**Private Reprints**

Research over the past more than three decades proves that besides the sheets meant for the purpose of the museum - in the printery other sheets, *private reprints*, were also prepared.

These are surfacing in collector traffic – in relativlely small numbers - especially unused examples, as well as complete sheets prepared for the purpose of collectors. The entry "minor business expenses" of the financial journal of the office justifies the purchasing of stamps, but it later came to light that the purchased stamps were *not official reprints*. With respect to this Venkovits obviously never gave clarification.

The *engraving marks* of these stamps are identical with the genuIne.

It is obvious that the tax office validation stamp is missing from these stamps, as well as the fact that occurring cancelled stamps are forgeries.

On the strength of subsequent evidence we can establish that *official reprints were not prepared for the Stamp Museum!*

**Forgeries**

Due to the contemporary conditions, collector interest in the 1st issue of Nyíregyháza emergency stamps arose relatively late. Obviously this ne'wer demand could have lead Venkovits to the satisfaction of swall-sized collector demands.

1. *Forged base stamps*. To this we must classify those *private reprints* which were prepared without the knowledge of the post for the purpose of collectors. The tax office's genuine, violet-colored round rubber stamp is missing. Almost all sheetlets known up to this point are thus (Ill. 363).

2. *Forged tax office rubber stamp*. Into this group we classify those stamps on which the tax office rubber stamp is a forgery.

The forged tax office rubber stamp is identically-sized (25 mm) with the genuine, but its circumference line is not double, but rather *single-lined*. While the inscription of the genuine rubber stamp is worn and its impression is washed-out and barely readable, until now the forgeries have sharp-outlined, clean impressIons (Ill. 364).

The occurring genuine stamps with forged tax office stamping lead to the conclusion *that from the genuine issue more than necessary were prepared than were delivered to the post* (Ill. 365).

The specimens known by me are unused, but in *István Sugár's* dissertation there appears such an illustration where both such denominations are presented cancelled. In an unfortunate manner, the lower part of the postal canceller is not visible, so the validity of the cancelling is not verifiable.

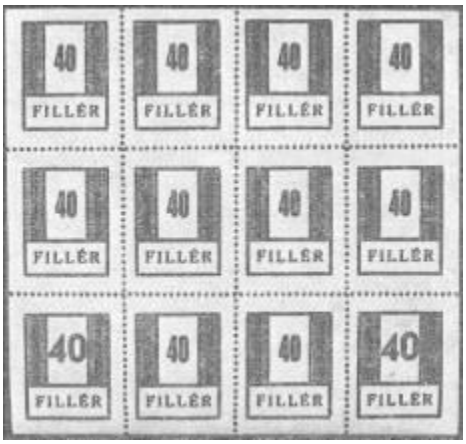
In opposition with the statements of the earlier technical literature, the greatest surprise occurred when in January of 1978 I had the opportunity for a thorough inspection of the museum material.

It came as a great surprise, that all stamps were reprints with *forged tax office cancelling*.

It is already from official correspondence verifiable, that a demand arose that could not be fulfilled from the first issued stamps, and the reprinting for this reason became necessary. On the other hand, the tax office - obviously - was not able to loan its original rubber stamp for reproduct ion.

Our present knowledge confirms that the specimens provided with the forged tax office rubber stamp *did not come into actual postal use*. "Covers" which occur with such stamps are *fabrications*.

*Presumably Venkovits made the rubber stamp, so that the stamps to be submitted to the Debrecen Postal Directorate could be identical-looking (tax office rubber stamp) with the originals.* In our present-day knowledge, we would not be mistaken with an inference of such a conclusion that Venkovits also used this rubber stamp "out of courtesy" in satisfaction of collector demands. From the results of our until-now investigations, it can be clarified, that Venkovits only very rarely extended to the employment of such "courtesies".




Ill. 363 – Full Sheet (reprint)

Ill. 364 – Forged Base Stamps

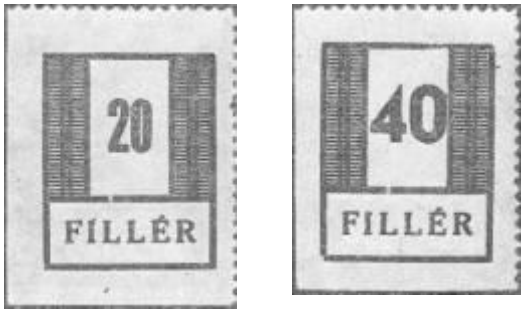
Ill. 365 – Forged Tax Office Canceller

3. *Genuine base stamps without tax office cancelling.*

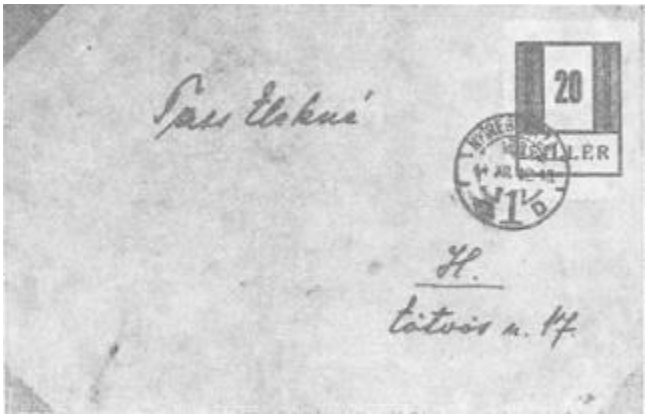
Already in the preceding we referred to the fact that not every 1st issue stamp came to be handed over to the post, for the tax office overprinting. Such examples are known mainly unused, but we also encounter forged covers with them (Ill. 366).

4. *Forged "genuinely used" covers*. To this we can classify those covers franked in part with genuine stamps, which were subsequently prepared (out of courtesy for the purposes of collectors) after the stamps were sold out - with a false setting of the date - with the datestamp postmark of the Nyíregyháza post office with the *identifying letter "D"* (Ill. 367).

It is today already not disputable that the cancelling of genuine covers franked with this issue took place with the post mark with the *identifying letter "M"*. Such favor cancelling of stamps is also known from other localities! The used stamps generally can be classified into the 1st and 2nd groups of forgeries!




Ill. 366 – Genuine Base Stamps Without the Tax Office Canceller




Ill. 367 – Forged "Genuine" Cover

*Sheets of 12* (4 × 3) came into postal service (Ill. 363).

*Manufactured:* on 0.09 mm thick colored, pregummed, book printing paper.

*Perforated* with line perforation 10¾, prepared on a perforating machine which is generally used in printeries.

*Franking*. Observations up to now confirm the fact that, without regard for the postal tarifs in effect, put into force on July 1, 1943, the franking price of the postal cards was 20 filler, for letters 40 filler, and the registration fee 80 filler. This schedule of fees was almost universal at that time.

The datestamp postmark with identifying letter "M" was used on genuine covers mailed at the Nyíregyháza 1 post office.

**1945 NYÍREGYHÁZA (II)**

A local emergency stamp series consisting of two denominations.

**The History of the 2nd Issue**

In January and February of 1945 in Szabolcs county the post offices opened in succession. *Foot-post service* (scout courier post) or the engineer or conductor on the reconstructed railway lines accomplished the inter-town forwarding of postal consignments.

It is obvious that the continually increasing postal traffic soon used up the 1st issue of Nyíregyháza stamps. For this reason *Károly Sabjányi*, the new office leader appointed on February 7, 1945, already before the stamp supply was completely used up, contacted Venkovits with the ordering of newer stamps. Because the post office had ready cash at its disposal from the selling of the postal cards and the 1st issue of stamps, he involved neither the local finance directorate nor the tax office in the ordering of the newer stamps.

**The Stamp Design**

The design of the stamps of the 2nd issue is completely identical with that of the 1st issue, however for the purpose of emphasizing the postal and local character, they provided them with a red overprint "**Nyíregyháza 1.**" underneath the inscription **FILLÉR**.

**Period of Use**

The 2nd issue of Nyíregyháza emergency stamps were prepared in February of 1945, and came into service in the second half of the month. We also still meet with their use in *April of 1945*.

**Sale**

The Nyíregyháza 1 post office in the first place used the stamps in satisfaction of local demands. Only smaller quantities were delivered to the other post offices of Szabolcs county. The ordering of some collectors was also satisfied with some series from this issue.

The occurence of *unused* specimens of the 2nd issue of Nyíregyháza stamps is rare, but is more frequent than the stamps of the 1st isssue. It is deserving of mention that the currently *known* unused examples are mostly of type B (see below).

*The denominations and number of examples of the series.*

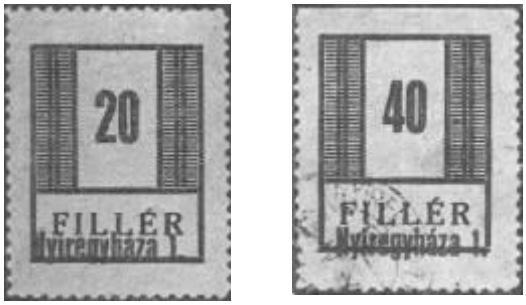
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 20 fillér | yellow/black | 4992 copIes |
| 40 fillér | pink/black | 2004 copIes |

**The Characteristic Signs of the Genuine Stamps**

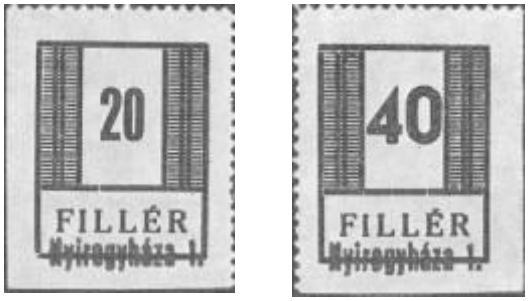
a) The *characteristic signs* of the base stamps are identical with those described for the 1st issue. This verifies that at the time of the ordering of the 2nd issue, the original cliché *still existed* (Venkovits obviously expected additional ordering). Thus, the two types of numeral of the 40 filler denomination are at the same place in the 2nd issue, located in sheet positions 9 and 12, as in the 1st issue.

b) *The overprint.* As is known, they provided the 2nd issue of Nyíregyháza stamps - whose basic stamps are identical with the 1st issue -with a red overprint "**Nyíregyháza 1.**" underneath the value indication **FILLÉR** for the purpose of emphasizing its local and postal character.

On the basis of an examination both of the known covers and of unused copies, the overprint is classifiable into *two types*. The establishing of this fact allows it to be concluded that the printing of the 2nd issue of stamps took place on *two occasions*.




Ill. 368 – Type A of the 2nd Issue



Ill. 369 – Type B of the 2nd Issue

*Type A:* On the letter "**í**" of the "**Nyíregyháza 1.**" overprint there is a long, angular trapezoidal shaped accent. The period following the inscription is *square* shaped. The letters are slender and sharply delineated, the most notable of which is the letter "**N**" (Ill. 368).

The color of the overprint is dull *carmine*. The full width of the overprint is 19.4 mm.

*The occurence of unused examples is truly rare*, which seems to prove that in the first place stamps of this type were prepared and for the most part they resulted in being used up.

Type B**:** On the letter "**i**" of the "**Nyíregyháza 1.**" overprint there is a *square shaped accent*, similar to the *period* following the text. The edges of the letters are delineated with indefinite lines (like the 1st issue of 1945 provision,ials), and the two vertical stems of the letter "**N**" are strongly run together (Ill. 369).

The color of the overprint is *vermilion*. The full width of the overprint is 20 mm.

This type occurs more frequently unused, *while up to this point genuine covers are not known!*

c) Validation. The post office was prepared for the ordering and expenses of the 2nd issue of stam,ps, for this reason *the tax office overprinting did not take place*.

They were *printed* in Nyíregyháza in the printery of Károly Venkovits in two runs with *typography* (letterpress).

**Reprinting**

As we described with the first issue, the Debrecen Postal Directorate in its official order dated June 8, 1945 ordered the forwarding of the emergency stamps for the purpose of being in the museum. According to the report of the leader of the post office, the office however no longer had at its disposal its own issued stamps. *Thus the office director turned to Venkovits, who also satisfied the request. However the museum specimens prove that the delivered stamps of the 2nd issue, also known from collections, are of the type B.*

In connection with this there rightfully arises the following questions:

1. From where did Venkovits get *genuine sheets of the 1st issue*, just at the time when the exhaustion of the 1st issue made the postal ordering of the 2nd issue stamps justifiable?

Stamps of the type B are also sufficiently frequent in the circle of collectors.

2. Covers franked with type B stamps are not known up to this point, only unused specimens. The sole cause of this can only be *that the post office never used these stamps*.

The above proves that the well-known "manipulations" of local issues occurred here also.

It is a question of individual judgement, whether we classify the type B stamps as *reprints* or *forgeries*. The only person qualified to answer this, the printer Venkovits, died some years ago.

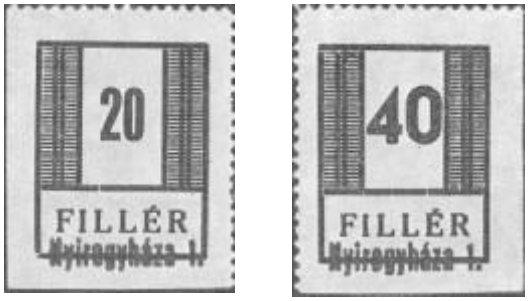
Concerning the irregularities of the genuine base stamps (genuine base stamps without tax office cancelling, genuine base stamps with forged tax office rubber stamp), mention has already been made with the 1st issue.

**Private Reprint (Forgery)**

Similar to the 1st issue, the 2nd issue did not avoid forgery.

Their recognition does not cause trouble. Their distinguishing signs:

1. Their base stamps are identical with those described for the 1st issue (Ill. 4).
2. The *accent* of the letter " I" of the overprint is *long* with blurred edges.
3. The period following the numeral "1" is irregular, but as a general rule *circle-shaped*.
4. The color of the overprint is vermilion (see Ill. 12).




Ill. 370 – Forgeries of the 2nd Issue

**Forgeries**

1. According to the judgement of the author, to here we must classify the private reprints,because these were not prepared for postal purposes, but for collectors.

2. To here we must classify those covers - irrespective of the validity of the stamp - which are cancelled with the letter "D" date-stamp.

*Sheets of 12* (4 × 3) came into service.

*Manufactured* on 0.09 mm~ thick, colored, pregummed book printing paper.

*Perforated* line perforation 10-3/4. The stamps of the outside edges of the sheets are imperforate.

*Franking* is identical with that published for the 1st issue.

**1945 ABONY OVERPRINT**

A stamp series overprinted with new value indications comprised of 25 regular and 4 postage due stamps.

The series, in contrast with the previously written about Nyíregyháza issues, by virtue of its character cannot be considered an emergency stamp issue, because this does not comply with the requirements, even though its origin is not surprising given the knowledge of contemporary conditions. Our determination is proven by the official postal position and the measures directed by the postal service against the putting into circulation of the stamps, to be written about in the following.

Covers franked with stamps overprinted in Abony also reached Budapest, and aroused the attention of the responsible officials. For this reason, the Main Postal Administration entrusted the postal director, Dr. János Horváth, with an on-the-spot investigation of the stamps overprinted in Abony.

In Dr. János Horváth's report, which we consider to be the official postal position, he states that *"A stamp issue did not take place in Abony, but rather as a consequence of irregular procedure (an individual working on his own initiative), certain stamps with individually overprinted new denominations came into service, which however cannot be considered to be an official issue, regularly used for franking."*

In the course of the investigation László Molnár, acting office director, handed over to Dr. János Horváth the remaining stamp supply, the letters and numbers used for the overprinting, as well as a series of stamps for museum preservation. The Stamp Museum has this material as valuable documentation of the period.

The most competent postal organ, the Main Postal Administration, intervened against the putting into circulation of the overprinted stamps in Abony. In the July 12, 1945 issue of the PRT {postal bulletin?}, order no. 169,680/A.4 was published, the pertinent parts of which we quote:

*"It has come to my attention that because of the military situation or the lack of an existing connection with Budapest, certain post offices, being unable to replace their stamps, arbitrarily overprinted higher denominations, which became necessary in consequence of the raising of tarifs. This procedure is contrary to regulations of postal law, according to item A. 1. Reg. 12. para. 1, about the emission of postage stamps and the alteration of those already in service.*

*The post offices should treat consignments franked with such contrary to regulations overprinted stamps according to that stated in the final paragraph of item A. 1. Reg. 15. para.2, i.e., liable for postage due."*

From the collection of József Molnár we also have knowledge of such postage due letters from April, 1945 from the Budapest 62 post office.

**Background**

Soviet military formations liberated Abony on November 4, 1944. In the course of the earlier evacuation, the functioning of the post office was terminated. Postal leader János Rimmer left the community and delivered the stamp supplies to Budapest. Thus the postal service became paralyzed. The local National Committee at first entrusted the lawyer *Dr. Mihály Egedy* with executing the tasks of leading the post office, as well as the setting in motion of the local postal service. The meritorious work of the office fell to the lot of the postal clerks remaining in the community, *Mrs. Pál Normann* and *Anna Kovács.* The franking of the until-now earliest known letter, which was addressed to Irsá on January 16, 1945, was paid in cash in accordance with the postal regulations. At first letter consignments transmitted by means of motormen or chief guards began towards the railway post offices situated in the vicinity, *Cegled 2* and *Szolnok 2*. As a result of its continually more orderly railway service, the Budapest 62 post office already *from March 1, 1945* began scheduled service on the Budapest — Cegled — Abony — Szolnok railway line.

Nevertheless, numerous complaints against the unsatisfactory functioning of the office were received by the administrative authority, for this reason the local National Committee released Dr. Egedy from the leading of the office, and entrusted with this *László Molnár*, a former restauranteur. Molnár, who never had been an employee of the post, strove with great diligence to solve the problems which arose, in which the professional workers of the office were of considerable assistance.

In the first place, the general shortage of stamps hindered the satisfactory functioning of the office. The Budapest Stamp Office, which was strongly damaged, was unable to solve this difficulty. Our first stamp series after the liberation, produced with overprinting and issued on May 1, 1945 (Liberation I), was a special stamp series with a small edition, which was obviously unable to satisfy the demands of the service. Our first regular stamp series however only came into service on June 1, 1945. In the meantime, the inflation also began and in all connections also increased the cost of the everyday life. Thus, contrary to regulations, the arbitrary raising of postal tarifs also became unavoidable, which in the entire country was almost universal. My investigation into the postal history of this period proves that the arbitrary raising of tarifs took place initially in those parts of the country broken off from Budapest in the course of military operations, although in the lack of newer central direction in this period, the tarifs which came into effect on July 1, 1943 were prevalent until May 1, 1945.

**The Overprinting**

László Molnár, in his recollections given to *István Sugár*, refers to the fact that the idea for overprinting of stamps was given by stamps produced in neighboring countries, and corning through the office in the form of franking, denominated in Pengo and Filler and overprinted with new value numbers. That thought also lead to the preparation for the overprinting, and so that he could satisfy the demand of senders without using up mass quantities of stamps, he gathered up with the greatest difficulty over half the country lower denominations of stamps.

Because László Molnár in March of 1945 had altogether 64 copies of earlier issued stamps, he thus resolved to overprint the stamps. For this reason, he obtained from *János Holló*, one of the

proprietors of the *Járdány and Holló Printery*, letterpress numbers and letters in exchange for tobacco. (In this time, to bacco was the only stable "currency".)

**Dimensions of the "Printing Tools"**

The then standard printing numbers he overprinting of the stamps.

The height of the small letters (fill.) is 3 mm.

The height of the small-sized numbers is 4. 5 mm.

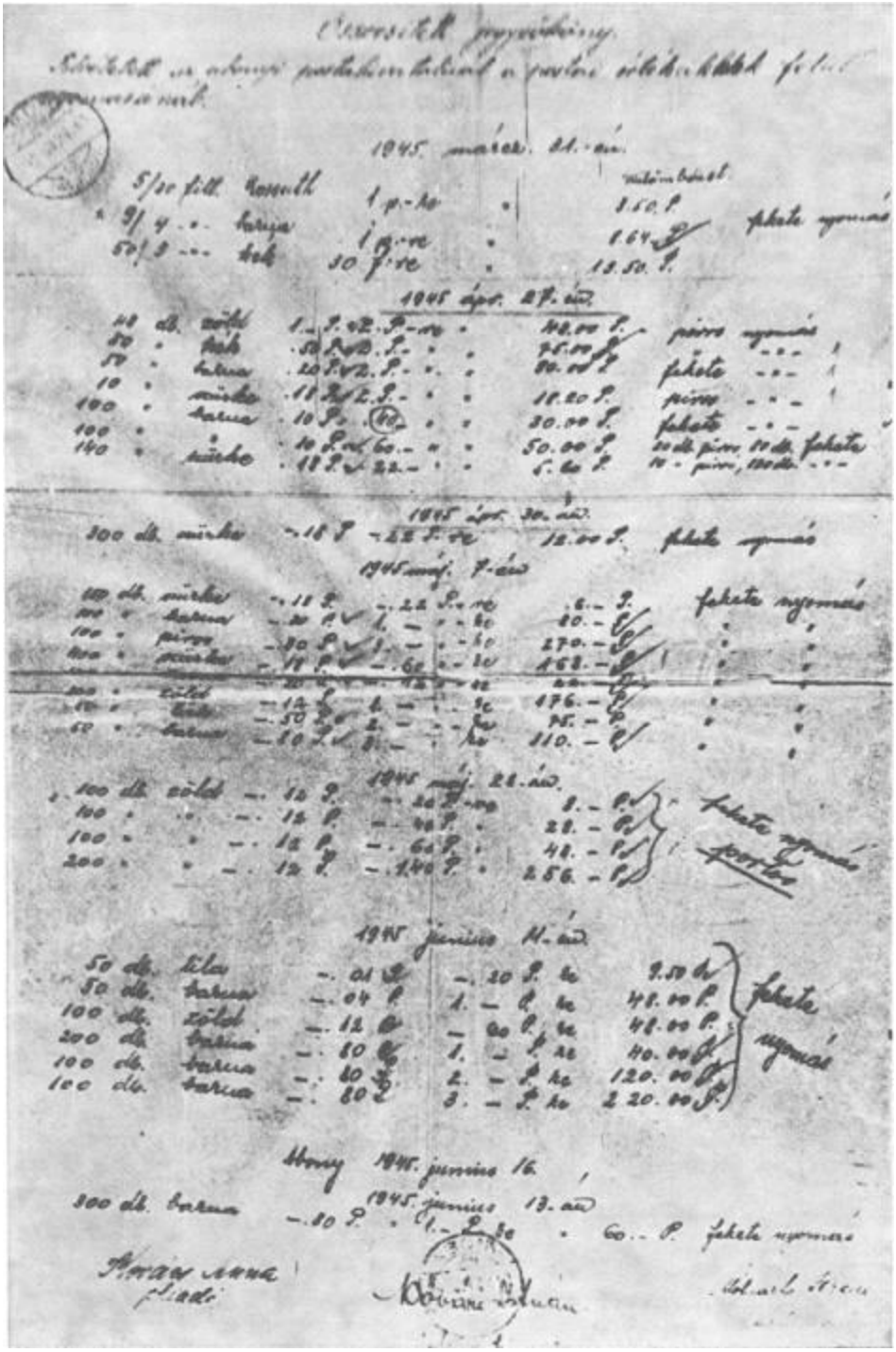
The height of the large letters and numbers is 7 mm.

The dimensions of the rectangles covering up the original value numerals is varying, because many of these were at his disposal. Their dimensions vary between 6-9 x 3-5 mm.

The diameter of the circle-shaped frame (which was the end of a cut-off pipe) which was used for the postage due stamps (20 and 40 filler) is 21 mm.
*It is to be noted that the indicated dimensions are the actual measurements of the numerals, letters, etc. The overprints measurable on stamps are somewhat larger than these, due to strong inking and heavy pressure.*

**The Techniques of Overprinting**

László Molnár and the postal clerk Anna Kovács with the above instruments accomplished the overprinting of the stamps in the post office, one at a time, by hand. The four letters and period of the value designation "fill." were tied up with thread so as not to slip apart (this can be seen today in the Stamp Museum), that is to say, as a printing cliche. The pengo denominated stamps were prepared by hand with a rectangle-shaped separating slug - slightly recessed - between the numeral and the letter. (In 1968 at the reconstruction, this "technology" was successfully verified.)



Ill. 371 – The Abony Protocol

*The effect of carrying out the overprinting one stampat a time is that, in principle, there are no two identically denominated stamps in which the individual details of the overprint are situated in identical distance with each other. The measurements of the rectangle-shaped impression covering up the old value numbers are, in general, varying by denomination, moreovel in individual cases are absent* (e.g., lP,/20f M., 2P/10f M., 3P/30f S.). *Within identical denominations,*

*the interval between the value number and the value sign can also vary, depending on how wide of a separating piece was assembled by hand.*

**The period of the overprinting and the quantities of stamps**

On the basis of the photocopy presented in Ill. 371 it is provable that on *seven occassions* in the Abony post office there occurred *accounted-for surcharging of stamps*. The presented "summarized protocol" was presumably prepared as a financial document without an exact determination of the overprinted stamps. Obtainable by reference to this are the face values of the stamps, the new face value and an indication of the numerical difference between the two, and the colors of the overprints, which alone facilitated the cataloging of the philatelic series. These, as well as the results of philatelic research, made verifiable the following overprintings and their quantities.

**1st OVERPRINTING (March 31, 1945)**
Regular Stamps

| Basic Stamp | | Overprint | | Quantity | Note |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| issue | face value | face value | Color | no. | |
| Military | 3 fillér | 30 fillér | black | 50 | |
| Leaders | 4 fillér | 1 Pengõ | black | 9 | |
| Kossuth | 30 fillér | 1 Pengõ | black | 5 | |
| Kossuth | | | | | |

**2nd—3rd OVERPRINTING (April 27 & 30, 1945)**
Regular Stamps

| Basic Stamp | | Overprint | | Quantity | Note |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| issue | face value | face value | Color | no. | |
| Military | 1 Pengõ | 2 Pengõ | red | 48 | 4/27 |
| Leaders | 50 fillér | 2 Pengõ | red | 50 | 4/27 |
| Military | 20 fillér | 2 Pengõ | black | 50 | 4/27 |
| Leaders | 18 fillér | 2 Pengõ | red | 10 | 4/27 |
| Military | 10 fillér | 40 fillér | black | 100 | 4/27 |
| Leaders | 10 fillér | 60 fillér | red | 20 | 4/27 |
| Military | 10 fillér | 60 fillér | black | 80 | 4/27 |
| Leaders | 18 fillér | 22 fillér | red | 10 | 4/27 |
| Military | 18 fillér | 22 fillér | black | 130 | 4/27 |
| Leaders | 18 fillér | 22 fillér | black | 300 | 4/30 |
| Military | | | | | |
| Leaders | | | | | |
| Military | | | | | |
| Leaders | | | | | |
| Military | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Leaders<br>Military<br>Leaders<br>Military<br>Leaders | | | | | |

**4th OVERPRINTING (May 7, 1945)**
Regular Stamps

| Basic Stamp | | Overprint | | Quantity | Note |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| issue | face value | face value | Color | no. | |
| Military | 18 fillér | 22 fillér | black | 150 | |
| Leaders | 20 fillér | 1 Pengõ | black | 100 | |
| Military | 30 fillér | 3 Pengõ | black | 100 | |
| Leaders | 18 fillér | 60 fillér | black | 400 | |
| St. Margaret | 20 fillér | 42 fillér | black | 100 | |
| Military | 12 fillér | 1 Pengõ | black | 200 | |
| Leaders | 50 fillér | 2 Pengõ | black | 50 | |
| Military | 80 fillér | 3 Pengõ | black | 50 | |
| Leaders<br>Military<br>Leaders<br>Famous<br>Women<br>Military<br>Leaders | | | | | |

**5th OVERPRINTING (May 28, 1945)**
Postage Due Stamps

| Basic Stamp | | Overprint | | Quantity | Note |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| issue | face value | face value | Color | no. | |
| Military | 12 fillér | 20 fillér | black | 100 | |
| Leaders | 12 fillér | 40 fillér | black | 100 | |
| Military | 12 fillér | 60 fillér | black | 100 | |
| Leaders | 12 fillér | 1.40 Pengõ | black | 200 | |
| Military<br>Leaders<br>Military<br>Leaders | | | | | |

**6th—7th OVERPRINTING (June 11 & 13, 1945)**
Regular Stamps

| Basic Stamp | | Overprint | | Quantity | Note |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| issue | face value | face value | Color | no. | |
| Churches II | 1 fillér | 20 fillér | red | 50 | 6/11 |
| Military | 4 fillér | 1 Pengõ | red | 50 | 6/11 |
| Leaders | 12 fillér | 60 fillér | black | 100 | 6/11 |
| Military | 80 fillér | 1 Pengõ | red | 200 | 6/11 |
| Leaders | 80 fillér | 2 Pengõ | black | 100 | 6/11 |
| Military | 80 fillér | 3 Pengõ | red | 100 | 6/11 |
| Leaders | 80 fillér | 1 Pengõ | black | 300 | 6/13 |
| Military | | | | | |
| Leaders | | | | | |
| Famous | | | | | |
| Women | | | | | |
| Military | | | | | |
| Leaders | | | | | |

For a determination of the size of edition of the overprinted individual denominations, we must accept the recorded data in the summarized protocol.

For the sake of greater lucidity, we catalog the stamps of the series according to the following, and we present in illustrations (Ill. 372).

1

2

3

4

4a

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

Ill. 372

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

20a

21

22

23

24

24a

25

I

P1

P2

P3

P4

The values and quantities issued of the series

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | 20 | fillér | on | 1 | fillér | Churches II | black | 50 copies |
| 2. | 22 | fillér | on | 18 | fillér | Military Leaders | red | 10 copies |
| 3. | 22 | fillér | on | 18 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 580 copies |
| 4. | 30 | fillér | on | 3 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 50 copies |
| 4a. | 30 | fillér | on | 3 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | |
| 5. | 40 | fillér | on | 10 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 100 copies |
| 6. | 42 | fillér | on | 20 | fillér | Famous Women | black | 100 copies |
| 7. | 60 | fillér | on | 10 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 80 copies |
| 8. | 60 | fillér | on | 10 | fillér | Military Leaders | red | 20 copies |
| 9. | 60 | fillér | on | 12 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 100 copies |
| 10. | 60 | fillér | on | 18 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 400 copies |
| 11. | 1 | Pengõ | on | 4 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 50 copies |
| 12. | 1 | Pengõ | on | 12 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 200 copies |
| 13. | 1 | Pengõ | on | 20 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 100 copies |
| 14. | 1 | Pengõ | on | 80 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 500 copies |
| 15. | 1 | Pengõ | on | 4 | fillér | Kossuth | black | 9 copies |
| 16. | 1 | Pengõ | on | 30 | fillér | Kossuth | black | 5 copies |
| 17. | 2 | Pengõ | on | 18 | fillér | Military Leaders | red | 10 copies |
| 18. | 2 | Pengõ | on | 20 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 50 copies |
| 19. | 2 | Pengõ | on | 50 | fillér | Military Leaders | red | 50 copies |
| 20. | 2 | Pengõ | on | 50 | fillér | Famous Women | black | 50 copies |
| 20a. | 2 | Pengõ | on | 50 | fillér | Famous Women | black | |
| 21. | 2 | Pengõ | on | 80 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 100 copies |
| 22. | 2 | Pengõ | on | 1 | Pengõ | Military Leaders | red | 48 copies |
| 23. | 3 | Pengõ | on | 80 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 100 copies |
| 24. | 3 | Pengõ | on | 30 | fillér | St. Margaret | black | 100 copies |
| 24a. | 3 | Pengõ | on | 30 | fillér | St. Margaret | black | |
| 25. | 3 | Pengõ | on | 80 | fillér | Famous Women | black | 50 copies |
| I. | 2 | Pengõ | on | 10 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 57 copies |

Postage Due Stamps

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P1. | 60 | fillér | on | 12 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 100 copies |
| P2. | 60 | fillér | on | 12 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 100 copies |
| P3. | 60 | fillér | on | 12 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 100 copies |
| P4. | 1.40 | Pengõ | on | 12 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 200 copies |

**Footnotes:**

1. *The abbreviations employed in the cataloging of the series:* {in the original table}

H. (Hadvezérek) = stamps of the Military Leaders series
K. (Kodduth) = stamps of the Kossuth series

M. (Szt. Margit) = the St. Margaret stamp
N. (Nagyasszonyok) = stamps of the Famous Women series
T.II. (II. Templom) = a stamp of the 2nd Churches series

2. *Variations listed under the sub-numbers:*

4a. The numeral 3 stands close to the 0. {with "fill." – translator}
20a. Sideways overprint (Stamp Museum).
24a. No period after the letter "P".

The quantities issued of the sub-numbered stamps is not known. This is included in the quantities issued for the main numbers.

3. *Stamp No. I:*

The 2 pengo stamp printed on the 10 filler denomination of the Military Leaders series deserves separate mentioning. This denomination does not appear in the Abony summarized protocol. Thus we should correctly infer that this overprint was prepared after the June 16, 1945 preparation of the protocol, but could not be placed into service because of the inquiry held by the postal administration. It is a misrepresentation of the facts for one to conclude that other, unregistered overprints were prepared in the office. In regard to this, it is particularly worth considering that which is published in point 5.

4. *The 22 and 42 filler denominations:*

As a logical explanation of the preparation of these two denominations, it can only serve that these two denomination were prepared as supplementary stamps for the 18 filler postal cards in the possession of the public. (This was analogous to the situation with the officially overprinted 28 and 42 filler stamps, although these did not come to be used up very much due to the new tarifs which came into effect on June 2, 1945.)

The production of these two new denominations allows it to be concluded that at the time in Abony the franking price of postal cards was 40 (18 + 22), respectively 60 (18 + 42) filler.

5. *The cataloging of the Abony overprints:*

The greatest disorder accompanies the publication of the cataloging of the Abonyi overprints in the course of the subsequent decades. We have established that the sources standing at our disposal (the summarized protocol, the price list issued after the liberation by the stamp dealer Sandor Szekely, presumably on the basis of the information given by it the cataloging of the Zumstein firm, as well as the enumeration contained in Dr. János Horváth's record of inquiry) are significantly different from one another. However we have worked out this erroneous data, but we hold its publication to be superfluous because of the publication of additional erroneous data (cf. point 3).

**Other Data about the Abony Overprints**

In addition to the earlier mentioned comprehensive statements we still wish to lay down some perhaps not superfluous data which can give proof to the judgement of collectors not discussed in the preceding, as well as to the practical occurence of the stamps.

a) *The remainder stocks seized in the Abony post office and delivered to the Stamp Museum, according to the status in the year 1968:*

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14. | 1 | Pengõ | on 80 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 8 copies |
| 20. | 2 | Pengõ | on 50 | fillér | Famous Women | black | 3 copies |
| 21. | 2 | Pengõ | on 80 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 8 copies |
| 23. | 3 | Pengõ | on 80 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 8 copies |
| 25. | 3 | Pengõ | on 80 | fillér | Famous Women | black | 26 copies |
| I. | 2 | Pengõ | on 10 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 57 copies* |
| P1. | 60 | fillér | on 12 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 5 copies |
| P2. | 60 | fillér | on 12 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 5 copies |
| P3. | 60 | fillér | on 12 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 21 copies |
| P4. | 1.40 | Pengõ | on 12 | fillér | Military Leaders | black | 111 copies |

* - entire stock

b) In the course of the examination ordered by the Postal Administration and complied with, László Molnár the entrusted office director reported that one copy each of the overprinted stamps were set aside for his two stamp collecting sons, *László Molnár* and *József Molnár*. He readily offered to hand over one piece each from the existing reserve stock for preservation in the Stamp Museum. Dr. János Horváth brought this series with himself and placed it in the Stamp Museum.

It has been established that the museum material is missing the following overprints:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11. | 1 | Pengõ | on 4 | fillér | Military Leaders |
| 16. | 1 | Pengõ | on 30 | fillér | Kossuth |
| 24. | 3 | Pengõ | on 30 | fillér | St. Margaret |

In contrast to this, not in the collection of József Molnár but included in the museum material:

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20a. | 2 | Pengõ | on 50 | fillér | Famous Women | sideways overprint |
| I. | 2 | Pengõ | on 10 | fillér | Military Leaders | not included in the protocol |

**Sale**

Research proves that in the first place the Abony overprinted stamps were prepared for the satisfaction of the demands of postal traffic. Today already according to a not verifiable assumption, an insignificant part of the stamps came into the hands of commercial establishments as well as collectors. In the few known present-day collections - with the exception of the collection of the Molnár brothers -only portions of the series are met with.

**Franking and Genuinly Used Covers**

The number of genuinly used covers is exceedingly small. Thus due to the arbitrary raising of tariffs, at this point in time trustworthy data is not at our disposal. In Ill. 15 we show the letter "A" datestamp used by the office. A letter "C" canceller is also known.

**Special Canceller**

László Molnár, entrusted office leader, for the *May 1, 1945* workers holiday, prepared a *temporary special canceller*, set into a piece of pipe (Ill. 16). The color of the special canceller was *red*. (The canceller is in the custody of the Stamp Museum.)

Ill. 373 – The letter “A” canceller

Ill. 374 – Abony temporary special canceller

**Philatelic Literature**

The Abony overprinted stamps very early received the attention not only of the Postal Administration but also of philatelists.

This is demonstrated in the following press communique from 1946 which we quote:

"FUTURE Vol. 2 No. 21 HUNGARIAN-SOVIET CULTURAL
SOCIETY ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY

The future of stamp collecting
Author: János Orvos
*Stamps of the Village of Abony*

In the national stamp exhibition which recently took place, László Molnár, a police 2nd lieutenant, exhibited some truly remarkable material. The postmaster of the village of Abony after the liberation between March 31, 1945 and June 11, 1945 prepared 27 kinds of letter and postage due stamps, and the Abony post office used these until the end of June 1945, when the office received its normal stamp allotment from Budapest; the remaining stock of the Abony

provisionals however was delivered to the stamp museum. These interesting provisionals are surcharged sole1y with the new value indication in red or black.

On May 1, 1945 Abony used for local post an old-style single circle small-sized datestamp with red color as a souvenir of the 'workers holiday'."

In connection with the *postal history* of the Abony overprinted stamps, my reference was a treatise by *István Sugár* published in "Post and Stamp Museum Review" (vol. II, no. I, 1970), as well as the record of the correspondence material deposited in the Stamp Museum. As philatelic references I refer in complete confidence to the stamps deposited in the Stamp Museum, a thorough examination of the "printing instruments", the reconstruction of the overprinting, as well as collection of Col. *József Molnár* which was placed at my disposal. To both of them, but not in the last instance to *Imré Hamza*, the former leader of the Stamp Museum, I hereby express my thanks.

I completed and finalized the best part of the pertinent works in 1968, but their detailed processing only occurred in the last half decade.

http://mystampworld.com/soviet-censorship-in-romania-1944-1946
**Soviet Censorship in Romania (1944-1946)**
January 08
14:37 2016
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The ending of WWII brought the Soviet Army into the heart of Europe. Along with this conjuncture the autumn of 1944 saw Soviet garrisons established throughout Romania. This lasted until 1958. From a historical postal point of view the occupation was followed by Soviet censorship of both the internal and external mail. This censorship can be divided into at least three main areas as follows:

**The Northern Transylvanian Civilian Censorship (Nov.1944 – March 1945)**

The Northern Transylvanian territory occupied by the Hungarians between September 1940 – September / October 1944 (see also RPHB # 14) was liberated by the Soviet and Romanian armies between September 1, 1944 and October 25, 1944. As a result the Romanian administration returned. However this was short lived and in November of 1944 the whole territory was passed over to the Soviet Military command. However, there were many Romanian and Hungarian local administrations preserved. As a result the situation became somewhat chaotic and the well known local posts in this area came into being. Only on March 15, 1945 soon after the installation of a communist dominated government in Bucharest did the territory pass to the Romanian administration.

The transition period between November 1994 and March 1945 is characterized by the sporadic use of Soviet censorship postmarks on civilian mail. Up to now two types are known.

**Bilingual type (Russian / Hungarian)** – originally with an error to the first “B” (which is a “V” in Russian) which looks like a “P” (- “R”) which reads as PROVERENO TZENZUROY / ELLENÕRIZVE and not “PROVERENO…” (“Verified by censorship”). The present author has an item which is not illustrated here as it is in poor condition which proves that this mark was

used as early as the autumn of 1944. The cover was sent from Balogfa (in the Vas district of Western Hungary) to the Baia Sprie/Felsõbánya area in the Satmar District, Northern Transylvania. It arrived in Satu Mare/Szátmarnémeti where it was canceled on October 17, 1944. Here it stayed because of the military situation. Satu Mare was liberated by the Soviet 133rd Infantry Division (from the Soviet 40th Army) a week later on the night of October 24/25 1944. The cover was now put back in the mails and censored with the above bilingual mark. There is no arrival postmark but one can make the assumption that the mark was used in November of 1944.

Soviet Bilingual Postmark

This is a registered cover, franked 75 Lei and sent from Târgu Mures on Feb. 9, 1945 (canceled twice with the local bilingual (Hungarian / Romanian) provisional cancel reading "MAROSVÁSÁRHELY I / TG-MURES 1"), addressed to Nagynyires / Miresul Mare in the Satmar District. The arrival cancel is Nagysomkút (Somcuta Mare) dated March 10, 1945 (one month later). The censoring with the red bilingual postmark was presumably added in the arrival area. The location of this censor office could be Satu Mare/Szatmárnémeti, but then again it could be at another place out of Northern Transylvania, in the Hungarian territory.

In the article "Hungarian Censor Markings used in late 1944 and 1945," written by István Gazda and Elaine Arundel, and published in "Stamps of Hungary" No. 116, March 1994, similar postmarks, but in two dimensions, are described as follows:

One measuring 69 x 1 4mm in Szombathely (used between June 6 and October 1,1945) the other of 72 x14 mm in Nyiregyhaza (used between June 28 – Dec. 4, 1945). These could have been the old "Northern Transylvanian" censoring marks that were then re-used by the Soviet censoring authorities. It is fairly definite that these marks were not used after March 15, 1945 on Transylvanian mail.

The other is a **trilingual type (Russian / Hungarian / Romanian)** with the same mistake to the first "B" as in Fig. 1. This was seen only on local philatelic covers (CTO) franked with the 2nd

Oradea / Nagyvárad local issue from the beginning of March 1945 (March 7). So if this mark was used on regular mail it had to be in Oradea.

**Internal Telegram Censorship (March 1945 – January 1944)**

A special case is the censoring of telegrams by the Soviet Military emanating from Units in the Romanian Military Garrisons. The censoring was obviously done on receipt making it easy to place the location of the censoring office that applied the mark. Soviet Military Censor Marking (10 KB)The usual soviet military censorship marks were used with the text “PROSMOTRENO / Voennoi tzenzuroi /…” followed by a 5 digit number (“EXAMINED / By the military censorship”).

By examining a great number of telegrams received at one location the author has come to the conclusion that the Soviet censorship was not in operation through to the end of February 1945. Censored telegrams are seen beginning in March 1945 (the earliest date seen so far is March 6, 1945 in Craiova, censor number 18920).

TELEGRAMA

Nr. 154

D

+=SILVIA GRECU CLUJ CALEA MOSILOR 28

+=LOK 86 DIN ATZEG NR 7 12 1 12 += data ... ora ... m. ... timpul

ora ... m. ... timpul

+=+=MULTZI ANI MAMICA DRAGA +=COPII TAI+=+=

6 Cen...at Cluj 6

p. Conformitate,

Telegram received in Cluj in August 1945 from Hateg, double censored, by the Soviets with the mark No. 27011 plus the Romanian censor mark of "Cenzurat Cluj" No.6. One can speculate that in Cluj there were two Soviet military censorship offices (units) with Nos. 17429 and 27011, or, much more likely, the units were changed after time with one being sent, for example, to the front

The end of this censorship is surely the same as for the internal and external postal censorship end, namely January 15, 1946 (the latest date seen is January 2, 1946 in Cluj, military censor No.17429).

In Northern Transylvania (Cluj), the telegrams are double censored; once by the Russians and then by the Romanian internal censors (Fig. 6 & 7). This did not happen in the rest of the country. The following are the censoring numbers seen so far:

14690 – Timisoara (Fig. 4 & 5)
17429 – Cluj (Fig. 6)
18920 – Craiova
27002 – Râmnicu – Sãrat
27011 – Cluj (Fig. 7)
27336 – Bucuresti (from Telegut-Thielk catalogue, 1995)
27914 – Râmnicu Sãrat

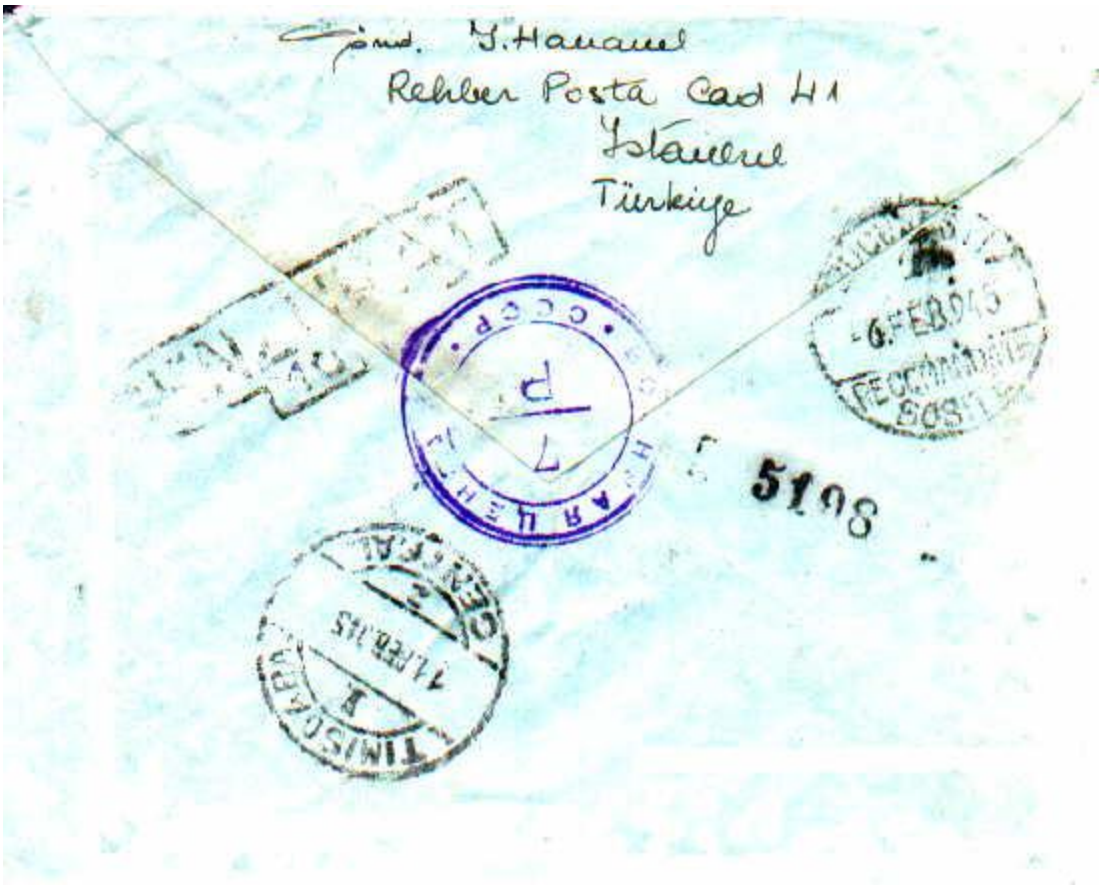
One can see similar censor markings on telegrams from Romania to the Romanian troops on the front lines. An example was illustrated by Mr. Adrian Matache in "Buletinul CSD" No.8/1995, Bucharest. This was a telegram received from Bucharest at OPM 76 (which was the 7th Army Corps HQ, probably in Rohatec , in Czechoslovakia at that time). It is cancelled with the OPM 76 mark on April 17, 1945 and censored with a soviet military postmark (No. 27544). It is a unique case when the mail of one army (Romanian) is censored by one of its allies (the Soviet Army). This led to Mr. Matache's conclusion that the Romanian Army was in fact an 'occupied army'.

**External Mail Censorship (February 1945 – Januarv 1946)**

Soviet External Censor Marking (5 KB)

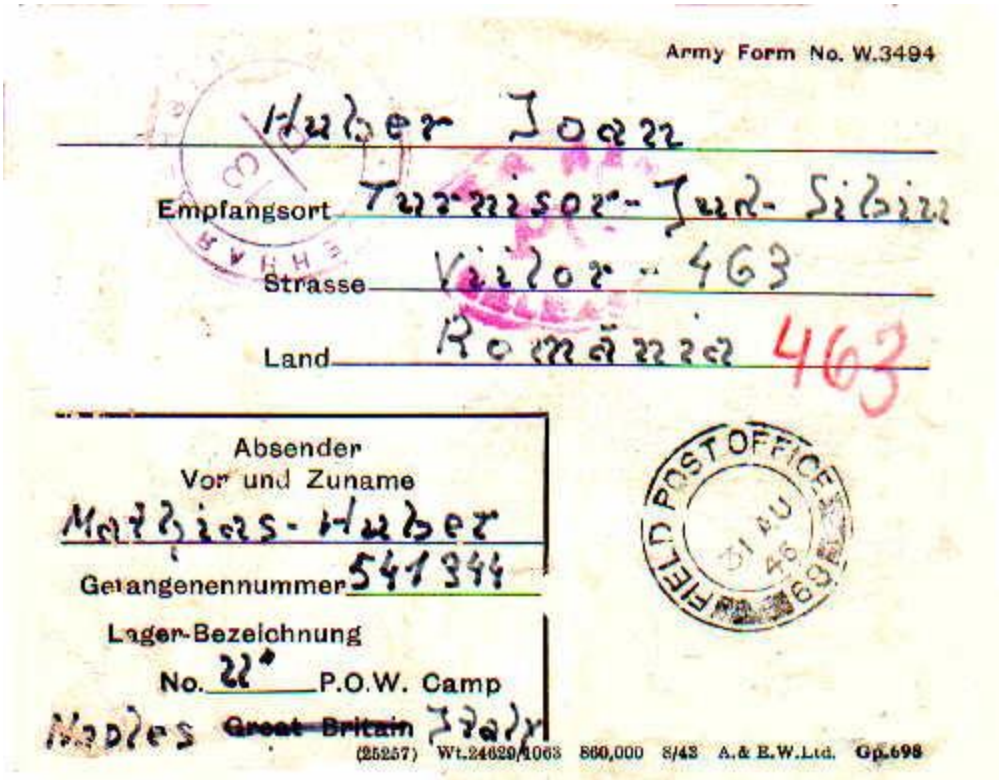
The beginning of Soviet censorship for Romanian external mail is usually considered to have started in September of 1944 (See also RPHB No.8 & 9). The Soviet censorship office was located in Bucharest and used round postmarks (Fig. 8) measuring 34-35/23 mm in diameter, with the text "VOENNAIA TZENZURA / SSSR /../ R" (Military Censorship/USSR /") followed by a number between 1 & at least 65 and the letter "R" {presumably from Romania).

The present author has found that the earliest date of usage to be February 6, 1945 on a letter coming from Turkey (Fig. 9). An earlier date could be that of the cover in RPHB No.7, page 7) at some time between January 15 and February 8, 1945. However, the postmark dated January 15 is too unclear to draw a definite conclusion.




Registered cover from Turkey (Istanbul Jan.23 1945) which arrived in Bucharest on February 6, 1945. It was censored by the Soviets (No. 7) and the Romanians (Cenzurat 10, censor no.4) and delivered in Timisoara on Feb.11, 1945
See other examples:

-4OCT45*-8
CENZURAT
OPENED BY EXAMINER
OPENED BY EXAMINER
PENED BY XAMINER
STAN. VASILE
LABOR. SERVICE, C.A.
RUMANIAN. CIV. GUARD
90TH GENERAL. HOSP.
A.P.O. 513 U.S. ARMY
U.S. ARMY
MAY 15
6 PM
1945
POSTAL SERVICE
BUCUREȘTI
28.SEP.945
DNEI
VIRONICA. V. STAN
COMUNA. PĂSTRĂVENI
JUDEȚUL. PEATRA. NEAMȚ
ROMÂNIA




Another piece of mail originating from Turkey and arriving in Bucharest in November of 1944 is censored only by the Romanian external censors without any sign of a Soviet mark. Thus we can

suppose that the Soviet foreign censorship in Bucharest started probably between December 1944 and January 1945.
Foreign mail for these months is scarce, first because most of the Romanian external mail postal links were still discontinued (they resumed in general, in the summer of 1945). Thus early items (September 1944 – April 1945) are known only from countries like Turkey, Sweden etc. who maintained postal relations with Romania.
In Fig. 10 one can see a late date (maybe even the last date) of Soviet censorship (it is worth noting that the Romanian censorship appears to have already been discontinued!). Theoretically both Romanian and Soviet censorship was discontinued on January 15, 1946.
The Romanian external censorship office would censor the mail after the Russians on incoming mail and before them on outgoing mail using a hand censor marking; usually No. 10 and less frequently No.2.
*Initially published in 'Romanian Postal History Bulletin', No. 22, April 1997; a German version was published in 'AGZ Rundbrief' No. 89 / 1998*
Author: Grecu Dan-Simion

http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch7a.htm
**AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STAMPS OF CARPATHO-UKRAINE, 1939 and 1945**
*by Jay Carrigan and Ingert Kuzych*
[This article is scheduled to be published by the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society sometime in 2003, in a revised edition of its *Handbook of Classic Ukrainian Philately*, Chapter 7. All rights reserved.]


| | |
|---|---|
| **Background** | **The Uzhhorhod Provisional Overprints** |
| **The National Assembly Issue** | **Watermarks** |
| **The Yasinia Local Trident Overprints** | **First Edition** |
| **Carpatho-Ukraine Postal Rates** | **Second Edition** |
| **A Change in Regimes** | **Forgeries** |

| | |
|---|---|
| **The National Council Definitive Issues** | **Cancellations** |
| **First Definitive Issue** | **Censorship** |
| **Second Definitive Issue** | **Epilog** |
| **Third Definitive Issue** | **Conclusion** |


**Background**
For centuries, the area of southwestern Ukraine known as Transcarpathia, Ruthenia, or Carpathian Ukraine was part of the Habsburg Empire rather than czarist Russia. Thus, prior to 1939, the stamps of Austria, Hungary, and then Czechoslovakia had been used in Transcarpathia. Russian or Ukrainian stamps were never employed.
While this article will focus on the issues from 1939 and 1945, when the area was referred to as Carpatho-Ukraine, a brief outline of the area's entire postal history is in order. The following is a simplified division into 10 periods:

1. Pre-stamp period (to 1850)

2. Austrian Issues (1850-1871)
3. Hungarian Issues (1871-1918)
4. Czechoslovak Issues (1919-1939)
5. National Assembly (Independence) Issue (15 March 1939)
6. Hungarian Issues (1939-1944)
7. Czechoslovak Local Issues (1944) – Khust, Berehove, Mukachiv
8. NRZU Issues (1945) – Uzhhorod, Berehove*, Mukachiv*
9. Soviet Issues (1945-1991)
10. Ukrainian Issues (1992-present)

* - Postal stationery only; see Chapter 14.

From 1919 to 1939, Transcarpathia was the easternmost province of Czechoslovakia (Figure 1). It was also the smallest province (4,886 square miles) and had a population of 725,357 according to the 1930 census, 71 percent of which was Ukrainian. It was during this period that Ukrainian public schools were permitted for the first time. This and other factors contributed to the rise in Ukrainian nationalism, which culminated in the 15 March 1939 declaration of independence.

The convoluted pathway by which this slice of Ukrainian ethnic territory ended up part of Czechoslovakia will not be covered here in detail. Suffice it to say that in late 1918, with the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Transcarpathian Ukrainians did make overtures to unite with the independent Ukrainian state. However, the ongoing fighting and chaotic conditions on much of Ukrainian lands in 1919 made it obvious that such a union could not occur. Not willing to join either Hungary (from whose oppression they had just emerged) or Poland (then fighting the forces of Western Ukraine), the only realistic remaining option was incorporation into the newly formed Czechoslovakia.

After much discussion and bargaining, the local Ukrainian political leaders accepted the Czechoslovak option with the stipulation that Transcarpathia would be allowed the fullest degree of autonomy within the Czechoslovak State. It is with these assurances that the Czechoslovak Republic signed the Treaty of Saint-Germain on 10 September 1919, under which Transcarpathia (now officially called Subcarpathian Ruthenia or just Ruthenia) became the easternmost province of Czechoslovakia.

**The National Assembly Issue**

Early in 1939, plans were drawn up to hold the First Carpatho-Ukrainian National Assembly (Soim) in Khust. The date of 2 March was agreed upon and a special regional stamp, with appropriate commemorative stationery and cancellations, was designed to mark the occasion (Figure 3). The 3-koruny blue stamp, depicting the wooden church at Yasinia, was delivered to Khust by the beginning of February.

*Figure 3. The famous 3-koruny blue, Carpatho-Ukraine's first stamp, showing the Church of the Ascension (Struk Church) and bell tower in the town of Yasinia.*

In actuality, the new stamp was a re-engraving of a 60-haléřů, orange red stamp from the 1928 Tenth Anniversary of Czechoslovak Independence Issue. The printing sheet format consisted of two panes of 100 side-by-side. Each pane had 16 horizontal rows, with the first and last rows consisting of only one stamp at the far left along with six blank tabs. The other 14 rows had seven stamps each. The last tab at the bottom right bore the plate number, either "1" or "1A" (Figure 4). A total of 900,000 stamps were prepared, with 300,000 forwarded to Khust and the remainder kept in Prague.

Because of its high value, the 3-koruny stamp was really only suitable for registered mailings or special delivery letters (see postal rates sidebar).

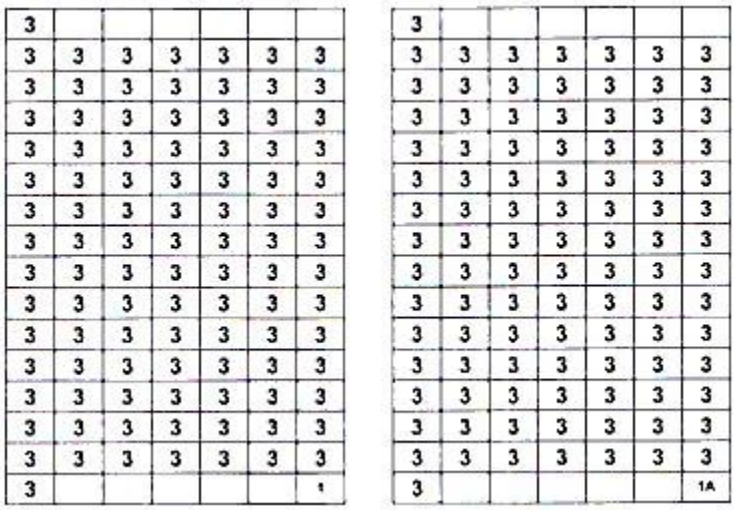



*Figure 4. Printing sheet layout for the 1939 stamp.*

Fearing a possible loss of its easternmost province during this charged time, the Czech government repeatedly postponed the convening of the Assembly. Nevertheless, fast moving events during the middle of the month proved to be decisive. On 14 March, Slovakia declared its independence. Geographically now separated from Prague, Carpatho-Ukraine became de facto independent. That same day, the Hungarian army crossed the Carpatho-Ukrainian frontier, seeking to annex the province.

In the early evening of the 14th, Voloshyn announced on the Khust radio that Carpatho-Ukraine had declared its independence. The following morning he handed over a handwritten decree to the Khust post office authorizing the sale of the stored stamps as the new country's first postal issue. A telegram was sent to Prague around 10:30 am informing postal officials of the stamp release, and the 600,000 stamps at the Philatelic Section in the Czech capital went on sale later that day. Around mid-afternoon of the 15th, the 22 elected deputies met in Khust and unanimously passed a bill officially declaring Carpatho-Ukraine a sovereign republic. Voloshyn was then unanimously elected its first president.

Although the semi-military formation known as the Karpatska Sich (Carpathian Sich) put up a spirited defense to the Hungarian advance, it was inadequately armed and trained. By 4:30 pm on 16 March the Khust post office was taken and by 6 pm the entire town was occupied and the Carpatho-Ukrainian Government had fled. The National Assembly Issue was valid, therefore, for only two days. Over the next several days, the remainder of Carpatho-Ukraine fell to Hungarian forces; it became the Hungarian province of Kárpátalja until late 1944.

The short duration of Carpatho-Ukraine's existence in 1939 - and its lone stamp release - gave rise to the myth that Carpatho-Ukraine was the one country that could be collected complete

simply by obtaining the 3-koruny stamp. Such is far from the case, however, as many more Carpatho-Ukrainian stamp issues were produced after the five and a half years of Hungarian occupation ended in the fall of 1944.

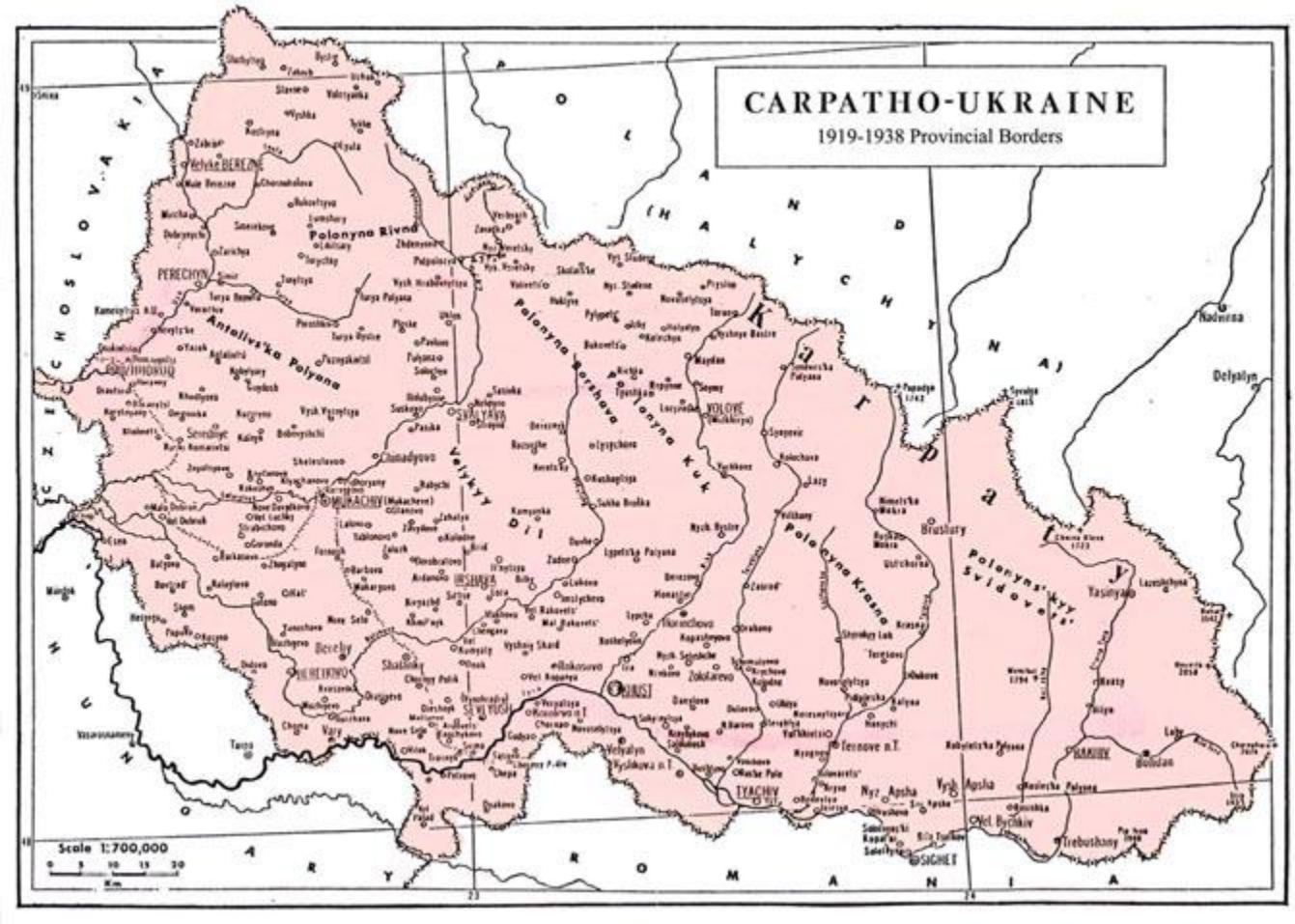



*Figure 1. Carpatho-Ukraine and its neighbors*

Unfortunately, for the next 19 years, the Czechoslovak administration failed to implement the provisions of this treaty, seeking instead to inculcate the Czech language into all facets of daily life. While "local language" Ruthenian schools were allowed, a disproportionate number of Czech language schools were opened, causing the Ruthenians to feel threatened by the Czech penetration. Despite the improvements in everyday life that were introduced during this time period, the prolonged delay in promised autonomy and the unresolved language question fostered ever-deepening resentment among the Ruthenians toward their Czech-led government. In September of 1938, at the Four Powers Conference in Munich, Czechoslovakia was forced to cede its German-populated Sudetenland to Germany. At this point the Czech government finally acquiesced and declared itself willing to meet the demands of both Slovakia and Ruthenia for more autonomy. The following month, Ruthenians were granted their own government under the Rev. Avhustyn Voloshyn. It is at this time also that the name of Carpatho-Ukraine was officially adopted. In November, parts of southern and western Carpatho-Ukraine were transferred to Hungary in the Vienna Award. The capital of Uzhhorod and the towns of Mukachiv

(Mukachevo) and Berehove (Berehovo) were lost, forcing the Voloshyn government to transfer the seat of government to Khust.
Figure 2 shows the boundaries of Carpatho-Ukraine during World War II. The southwestern area in white was annexed by Hungary on 2 November 1938, while the shaded area was annexed on 16 March 1939. Furthermore, on 4 April 1939, Hungary also annexed a portion of eastern Slovakia (the area in white north of Uzhhorod). During World War II, this latter area was administered as part of Carpatho-Ukraine (Kárpátalja).

*Figure 2. Carpathian-area border changes, 1938-1945.*

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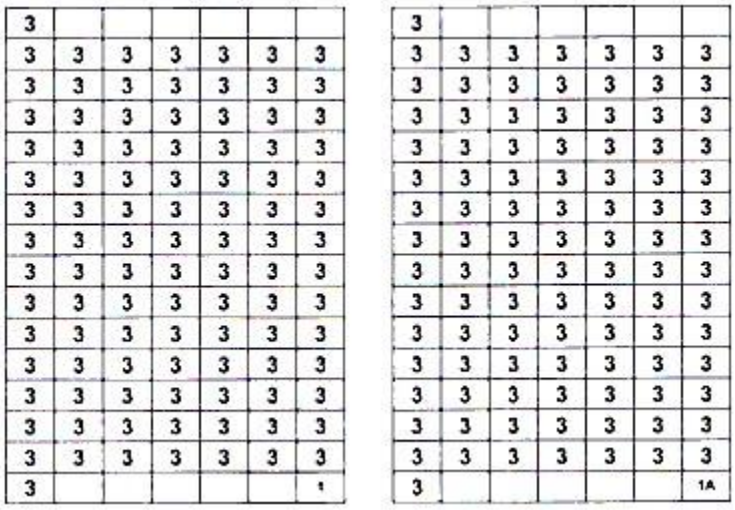


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The short duration of Carpatho-Ukraine's existence in 1939 - and its lone stamp release - gave rise to the myth that Carpatho-Ukraine was the one country that could be collected complete simply by obtaining the 3-koruny stamp. Such is far from the case, however, as many more Carpatho-Ukrainian stamp issues were produced after the five and a half years of Hungarian occupation ended in the fall of 1944.

**The Yasinia Local Trident Overprints**

Hearkening back to 1918-19 when trident overprints were the norm on stamps of newly independent Ukraine, some citizens of the town of Yasinia decided to create their own version during the time of Carpatho-Ukraine's short-lived independence. On 14 March 1939, 43 Czechoslovak stamp issues and two souvenir sheets were overprinted with a rubber handstamp showing a trident (Figure 5; designated Type I, it is rather similar to Odesa VIa or some of the Podillia trident overprints from Ukraine 20 years earlier). Still on that same day or on the following day, 39 Czechoslovak stamp varieties were overprinted with a distinctive Type II metal device that not only displayed a trident, but also the words "СЛАВА УКРАЇНІ!" (Glory to Ukraine!) in a half circle under the trident (Figure 6). Some postal cards were also overprinted with either the Type I or Type II tridents. All of the overprinting was carried out with black ink.

*Figure 5. Type I*

*Figure 6. Type II.*

Exactly who produced the Yasinia overprints has not been determined. A likely source is members of the military organization Karpatska Sich, some of whose recruits were stationed in Yasinia at this time. The Yasinia stamps were not officially authorized issues by any means, despite the fact that some of the overprinted stamps are known seemingly used with a Yasinia circular date stamp of 14 March 1939. These "used" stamps were most likely created on a "canceled-to-order" or "handback" basis. The Yasinia local stamps were not prepared in any great quantities and are fairly difficult to track down. They thus provide quite a challenge for collectors of philatelic ephemera.

**Carpatho-Ukrainian Postal Rates**

The Czechoslovak postal rates in force in mid-March of 1939, at the time Carpatho-Ukraine declared its independence, were as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Local letter (to 20g) | 60 haléřů |
| Domestic postal card | 50 haléřů |
| Domestic letter rate (to 20g) | 1 koruna |
| Domestic Registration | 2 koruny |
| Domestic Special delivery | 2 koruny |
| Foreign postal card to neighboring countries | 1.20 koruny |
| Foreign postal card to other countries | 1.50 koruny |
| Foreign letter to neighboring countries (to 20g) | 2 koruny |
| Foreign letter to other countries (to 20g) | 2.50 koruny |
| Foreign registration to neighboring countries | 2 koruny |
| Foreign registration to other countries | 2.50 koruny |
| Foreign special delivery (express) | 5 koruny |

Unfortunately, the postal rates in Carpatho-Ukraine following liberation from Hungary are far less clear. The Hungarian expert Béla Simády (1984) provided the following list of rates:

| | |
|---|---|
| Local letter | 40 fillér (0.40 Pengő) |
| Domestic postal card | 40 fillér (0.40 Pengő) |
| Domestic letter | 60 fillér (0.60 pengő) |
| Foreign postal card | 1 Pengő |
| Foreign letter | 2 Pengő |
| Registration | 1.40 Pengő |

Although, this information is useful, the franking on a great many covers still goes unexplained. In particular, there are many court letters and official correspondences of the NRZU that are franked with 10 fillér and 20 fillér, which causes one to assume the existence of special rates (printed matter?) for those classes of mail.
Furthermore, five years later, Simády (1989) stated the following in regards the 1945 tariffs: "I have no exact data about the then-valid rates, but the franking of letters shows a very colorful picture."! Obviously, this subject presents opportunities for additional research
If one discards the blatantly philatelic covers, the above rates "fit" about 50% of the covers known. The foreign rates seem to be consistently applied, but there are many exceptions to the domestic (including local) rates.

**A Change in Regimes**
Carpatho-Ukraine was occupied by the Red Army in October of 1944. The Czechoslovak government-in-exile exercised civil authority for a brief period, but by early 1945, it had moved on to Košice in Slovakia (which had also been freed from Hungarian rule). This body produced some local issues (40 items) in Khust and authorizing documentation is known. Czechoslovak "Sympathy Issues" were also prepared in Mukachiv (81 items), Berehove (31 items), and Teresva (113 items), but precisely who was responsible for their issuance is unclear (Figure 7).

**Khust** **Mukachiv** **Berehove** **Teresva**

*Figure 7. Local issues of late 1944*

Very few covers demonstrating usage of these local stamps have survived from Khust and Mukachiv. Some from Khust are possibly genuine, but virtually all from Mukachiv were philatelically prepared. The authors are unaware of any covers from Berehove or Teresva. Because of their dubious nature, these local issues are not dealt with in this *Handbook*.
Meanwhile, a network of local political organizations had evolved to become the "National Council of Carpatho-Ukraine," known as the NRZU (after the Ukrainian initials for "Narodna Rada Zakarpatskoi Ukrainy"). Eventually, the Soviet military authorities entrusted the civil administration of Carpatho-Ukraine to the NRZU. This autonomy extended to postal matters. Under NRZU auspices, two overprinted issues and three definitive issues were produced and distributed throughout Carpatho-Ukrainian territories.
All Carpatho-Ukraine stamps from this time period lack an indication of the currency. At one time, it was thought that the Soviet, Hungarian, and Czech currencies were allowed to circulate at equal value. Current thinking is that only the Hungarian fillér / pengő currency was in circulation. It is also plausible that the currency designation was omitted since it represented a

symbol of the Hungarian occupation. This article will indicate denominations as either “f” (fillér) or “P” (Pengő).

**The Uzhhorod Provisional Overprints**

Considerable discrepancies occur among catalogs as to how many basic Hungarian stamp releases were overprinted by the NZRU. Some compilations list all of the dozens of revenue stamps that were prepared. Others ignore most of these stating that they were essays and therefore never put into postal circulation. No two listings are the same and this has caused a great deal of confusion among philatelists.

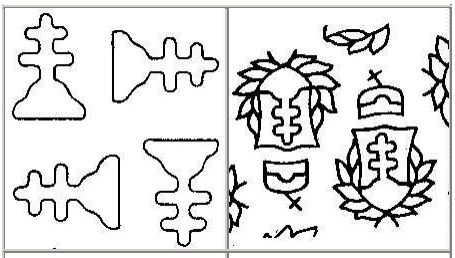
Nevertheless, there are basic characteristics of these overprints that everyone does agree upon. The Uzhhorod overprints all consist of three lines of Ukrainian text: "Poshta Zakarpatska Ukraina" (Post of Transcarpathian Ukraine) plus a denomination. (Although not indicated, the value is in Pengő and/or fillér.) Three distinct overprints (A, B, and C - see Figure 8) were employed. Overprinting of Hungarian stamps took place at two different times in two different printeries. That is about all that can be stated with certainty, as the various experts are in disagreement about the specifics.

| Overprint A | Overprint B | Overprint C |
|---|---|---|

*Figure 8. The three Uzhhorod overprint styles*

**Watermarks**

The basic Hungarian stamps used for overprinting exist with either or both of the following watermarks:



| Watermark IX | Watermark X |
|---|---|

*Figure 13. Watermarks on Hungarian stamps.*

Watermark IX (Scott 210) is a pattern of detached double crosses. It can exist in up to four positions (based on the alignment of the pyramidal cross bases). On single stamps it is often not possible to identify the watermark position.

Watermark X (Scott 266) is a crowned coat of arms with double cross. It can exist in up to four positions (based on the direction that the cross on the crown leans). On single stamps, only two positions are identifiable.

**First Edition**

The overprinting of the First Edition, consisting of overprints A and B, began on 1 February 1945 (10 February according to some accounts) in the state printing shop, Litografia Lam. This

was a rather limited edition as stocks for the overprinting were drawn only from post offices in the vicinity of Uzhhorod. Seventeen different Hungarian postage stamps, six postage due stamps, and three revenue stamps were overprinted into First Edition Uzhhorod Provisionals (Figure 10). Additionally, numerous other revenue stamps were prepared but not released.

*Figure 9. First Edition stamps.*

The First Edition stamps were overprinted in vertical strips of ten. Frequently, smaller units were pasted together to form strips for overprinting. Four major types (I through IV) and several subtypes of the A-overprint are known (Figure 11), primarily due to a shortage of capital letters (increasing the number of collectible varieties to well over 150). The following types and sub-types are recognized by most collectors:

Type I - Normal; initial capital letters without serifs (positions 3, 5 early, 7, and 8)

Type IA - Broken **н** in Україн**а** (position 5 late)

Type II - **З** in **З**акарпатська with serifs (position 2).

Type III - **П** in **П**ошта with serifs (positions 4 and 6).

Type IIIA - Missing final **а** in Закарпатськ**а** (position 1).

Type IV - Serifs on both the **П** in **Пошта** and the **З** in **Закарпатська** (positions 9 and 10)

*Figure 10. Types and subtypes of Overprint A.*

Note: Some authors list our Type Ia as Type Ib, with their "Type Ia" being an overprint with breaks in the **П** and **ш** of **Пошта**). This variety occurs in both the first edition (position 3) and the second edition; see

*Figure 11.*

Figure 12. We choose to omit this and other minor varieties from the listings. (For more information on other overprint varieties, see references 22, 23, and 27.)

*Broken letters.*

Various sources have reported the angle of the 2nd and 3rd lines of the A-overprints as follows: 34 to 36 degrees (Blaha, Rauch, and Táborský), 36 degrees (Simády), and 38 degrees (von Steiden). Computer measurements of a representative sample of stamps shows multiple examples of every angle from 34 to 38 degrees, with the majority falling at 36 degrees. The 23- and 27-degree angles mentioned by von Steiden (as being scarce) remain unconfirmed.

Three small-format accounting revenue stamps (plus two unissued large-format accounting revenue stamps) were overprinted in a horizontal format for the First Edition. They display the numeral on the right side, and are designated as Overprint B, Type I. One sub-type, designated Type Ia, exists (**т** broken to resemble **г**, reading **Закарпагська**; see Figure 13). These overprinted revenue stamps were issued as ordinary postage stamps, and not as revenue stamps (or as official stamps as claimed in the *Michel* catalog).

**Type Ia**

*Figure 12. Broken* **т**.

In addition to these issued revenue stamps, several categories of Hungarian revenue stamps received Overprint A. These are considered to be unissued essays by most sources, although a few are known on cover. It seems likely that they were overprinted before the postage stamps, since Type Ia (broken **н** in **Україна**) has so far not been found on any revenue stamp.

**Second Edition**

Most references state that the Second Edition, consisting of overprints A and C, was released on 20 March 1945, but covers with Second Edition franking are known as early as 27 February. The second edition overprints were produced by a private concern, Földesi. However, some authors attribute the first edition to Földesi and the second edition to Lam (Figure 14).

*Figure 14. Second Edition stamps.*

These stamps were overprinted in vertical strips of five, and a sufficient quantity of type was available so that all of the initial capitals were sans-serif. [A lone exception exists: the 2.00/80f value of the 1941 Churches set (catalog number 9) has serifs on the **З** of **Закарпатська**, as in Type II of the first edition.]

As with the First Edition, sources differ about the angle of the 2nd and 3rd lines of the A-overprints: 30 to 36 degrees (Blaha, Rauch, and Táborský), 23 to 27 degrees (Simády), and 30 and 36 degrees (von Steiden). Computer measurements of a large number of stamps show virtually every angle between 24 and 40 degrees (25 and 33 degrees were not found). Clusters occurred at 28 to 30 degrees and at 37 to 38 degrees. Second Edition overprints at 34 to 38 degrees are often difficult to distinguish from their First Edition Type I counterparts. A

knowledge of plating is required, which is beyond the scope of this article (see references 22, 23, and 27).

Only the three small-format revenue stamps received overprints - with numerals at the left - and they are designated as Overprint C**;** see Figure 8 above. (The "Broken **т**" variety does not exist in this edition.)

The Second Edition overprinted a far more extensive variety of Hungarian stamps as stocks for the overprinting were drawn from post offices throughout Carpatho-Ukraine. Fifty-eight basic postage stamps (making 72 major catalog numbers as some values were overprinted with a second or even third value), ten postage due stamps, and three revenue stamps were used in creating the Second Edition Uzhhorod Provisionals. The Second Edition overprints were also applied to a dozen previously overprinted local Khust stamps of 1944.

*Figure 15. Cover from Kvasy to Uzhhorod carrying a 60f Uzhhorod Provisional Second Edition stamp. The 23.VII.45 date is pencilled inside the cancellation.*

**Forgeries**

Although forgeries are known of the overprinted issues, none of them are particularly dangerous when comparisons can be made with known genuine material. In some instances the forgers exhibited their ignorance by printing forged Type II, III, or IV overprints on stamps that were not part of the genuine First Edition. Doubtful stamps should always be expertized.

Three different forgeries are known to the authors:

1. The common "Budapest" forgery, characterized by thinner letters, and taller, thinner numerals (Figure 16).
2. A forgery characterized by several deformed letters. Especially notable is the high center bar of the **ш** in **Пошта**. The numerals resemble the genuine in shape, but they are about 0.3 mm too tall. In one interesting variation, the forger added "**1944**" to the left of the numerals. At one time, some collectors thought that these were trial printings. So far, the authors have only seen these overprints in red on the 18f stamp (Figure 17).
3. A poorly executed forgery with many overinked and underinked letters. Known both without numerals and with "**00**" numerals. Here too, some collectors once thought that these were trial printings (Figure 18).

*Figure 16. "Budapest" forgery.*

*Figure 17. Forgeries with deformed letters; with and without "1944".*

*Figure 18. Forgeries without value or with "00" value.*

None of the forgeries were printed by typography (letterpress) as in the genuine.

**The National Council Definitive Issues**

Like most overprinted issues, the Uzhhorod Provisionals were merely a temporary expedient. This fact was noted by the NRZU and preparations were soon made to produce subsequent issues using local resources.

Beginning in May 1945, three separate definitive series were issued for Carpatho-Ukraine. All stamps were printed by offset lithography at Litografia Lam in Uzhhorod, and are perforated 11½ (imperforates exist of all values). Shade variations (from light to dark) are common, sometimes occurring within the same sheet. Gum was applied by hand and varies in color, quality, and consistency. Traces of gum can sometimes be found on the face of stamps, indicating that the gum was applied after printing. Perforation varieties of many types are known to exist, and are especially abundant on the second definitive issue. Most stamps also have plate numbers and/or inscriptions in the sheet margin, thus increasing the number of collectible varieties.

All three definitive series reflected the communist-oriented nature of the National Council. Each stamp has a hammer and sickle incorporated into its design, and most stamps also display a socialist star.

**First Definitive Issue**

The first locally produced stamp issue (Figure 19) consisted of three values: 60f (red), 100f (various shades of blue), and 200f (deep blue and red). The stamps were released on 1 May 1945 and covers from the first day of issue have survived (Figure 20).

*Figure 19. The First NRZU Definitive Issue.*

*Figure 20. First day of issue (1 May 1945) local Uzhhorod cover bears perforate and imperforate 60f stamps of the First NRZU Issue. Note boxed censor marking in lower left.*

The sheet layout of the 60f and 100f is similar to that employed for Czechoslovak commemorative issues of the 1930s, i.e. sheets of 50 consisting of 7 rows of 8 with tabs in the first and last positions of the bottom three rows. Plate number **1.** appears in the lower left tab. On the 100f value only, the printer's imprint **ЛИТО ЛАМ 1945.** appears below (or sometimes in) the lower right tab.

The 60f value exists in two types, determined by the position of the **П** in **ПОШТА**. In Type I the **П** is directly above the **О**, while in Type II the **П** is shifted slightly to the right (see Figure 21). The schematic in Figure 22 shows the distribution of Types within the 60f sheet.

**Type I** **Type II**

*Figure 21.*

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **I** | **II** | **I** | **I** | **I** | **II** | **I** | **I** |
| **I** | **II** | **I** | **I** | **I** | **II** | **I** | **I** |
| **I** | **II** | **I** | **I** | **I** | **II** | **I** | **I** |
| **I** | **II** | **I** | **I** | **I** | **II** | **I** | **I** |
| « | **I** | **I** | **I** | **II** | **I** | **I** | « |
| « | **I** | **II** | **I** | **II** | **I** | **I** | « |
| «**1.** | **I** | **II** | **I** | **II** | **I** | **I** | « |

*Figure 22. Distribution of Types in the 60f sheet.*

There were two formats for the 200f. What is believed to have been the first printing was prepared as a sheet of 50 (5 rows of 10). The second printing was a sheet of 60 (5 rows of 11 + 1). A tab with a red star was placed between the 11th and 12th stamps of each row, thus forming a vertical gutter (Figure 23). In the sheets of 50, the lower left stamp has both the plate number **1** in the left margin and the printer's imprint **ЛИТО. ЛАМ 1945.** in the bottom margin. The sheets of 55 + 5 also have these markings by the lower left stamp, as well as the plate number **1A** in the bottom starred gutter tab, next to the last stamp in the sheet.

Some sources report that the second printing sheet layout contained 55 stamps: 5 rows consisting of 10 stamps, a gutter tab with a red star, and then an 11th stamp. This information is incorrect and is probably due to simple miscounting.

*Figure 23. Strip from a sheet of 60.*

Some sheets of the first edition have a variant printer's imprint **ЛИТО ЛАМ 1945**. Note the use of Greek-style "L"s and the absence of periods, as well as different forms of other letters and numbers, especially the "M" and the "4" (Figure 24).

**Normal** **Variant**

*Figure 24. Imprint Styles on 200f value.*

Essays for the 60f and 200f stamps are known. The 60f essay is in black on thin parchment paper. The numerals are in a different style, and the communist insignia (star, hammer & sickle) are missing from the background; see Figure 25. In the 200f essay the numerals again are different and this time are placed lower, next to the fist. The essay is in a single color – brown (sheet of 50; 5 rows of 10). The printer's imprint is in the upper left corner, but there is no plate number. The right side of the sheet displays an 11th vertical column of tabs with stars (see Figure 26).

*Figure 25. Essay on parchment paper with variant design.*

*Figure 26. Single-color essay, variety printed on security paper used for school report cards.*

An abbreviation of the designer's name "Т. МОШК." (for T. Moshkovich) appears beneath each stamp of this set.

**Second Definitive Issue**

The second definitive series was issued in June of 1945 and consists of six values: 10f (dull yellow, bright yellow), 20f (grayish blue, bluish gray, gray), 40f (yellow green, dark green), 60f (bright red, brownish red), 100f (blue and brownish red), and 200f (brown and red); see Figure

27. Shades exist of all values. The earliest usage so far known is 11 June 1945. Figure 28 shows a cover mailed on 26 June 1945.

*Figure 27. The Second NRZU Definitive Issue.*

*Figure 28. Manuscript cancellation dated 26.VI.945 on an official mail cover sent from Siltse to Irshava. Note: franking consists of a single 10f stamp from the Second NRZU Issue.*

All values were printed in sheets of 200, consisting of side-by-side panes of 100 (10 by 10) separated by a vertical gutter strip. Marginal markings are different on most values:

10f Plate number ***1.*** next to lower left stamp of left-hand pane
Plate number ***1.A.*** in gutter tab next to lower left stamp of right-hand pane
Printer's Imprint ***ЛИТО-ЛАМ 1945.*** below last two stamps of right-hand pane

20f No marginal markings

40f Plate number **1** next to lower left stamp of left-hand pane
Plate number **1A** in gutter tab next to lower left stamp of right-hand pane
Printer's Imprint **ЛИТО-ЛАМ 1945** below last two stamps of right-hand pane

60f Plate number **1** next to lower left stamp of left-hand pane
Plate number **1.A.** in gutter tab next to lower left stamp of right-hand pane
No printer's Imprint

100f Plate number ***1.*** next to lower left stamp of left-hand pane
Plate number ***1.A.*** in gutter tab next to lower left stamp of right-hand pane

Printer's Imprint ***ЛИТО „ЛАМ" 1945.*** below last two stamps of right-hand pane
Double vertical line in gutter; all marginal markings in blue

200f Same as 100f, but all marginal markings in brown

The variations in marginal markings present a possible printing sequence as follows: 20f, 60f, 40f and 10f, with the 100f and 200f printed last.

The 100f and 200f are also known with reversed colors (errors), i.e. 100f brown with brownish red numerals, and 200f blue with red numerals.

Perforation varieties are especially abundant in the Second Definitive Issue.

**Third Definitive Issue**

The third definitive series consists of the 10f (yellow) and 20f (shades of gray) values only (Figure 29). The stamps were issued in August of 1945. The designs are the same as the second definitive issue with the addition of tiny numerals "19" and "45" adjacent to the value panel. On the 10f value, portions of these numerals are occasionally obscured by overinking.

*Figure 29. The Third NRZU Definitive Issue.*

Both values were printed in sheets of 200, consisting of two panes of 100 (10 by 10) separated by a vertical gutter strip. The marginal markings resemble those of the second edition 100f and 200f stamps, but with smaller (italic) type and plate numbers changed to ***2*** and ***2A*** (no periods). The imprint ***ЛИТО ЛАМ УЖГОРОД*** appears under stamps 99 and 100 (lower right) of the right-hand pane on both values. The intended purpose of vertical lines in the gutter – to serve as a cutting guide – was clarified by the addition of "scissors" icons at the top and bottom.

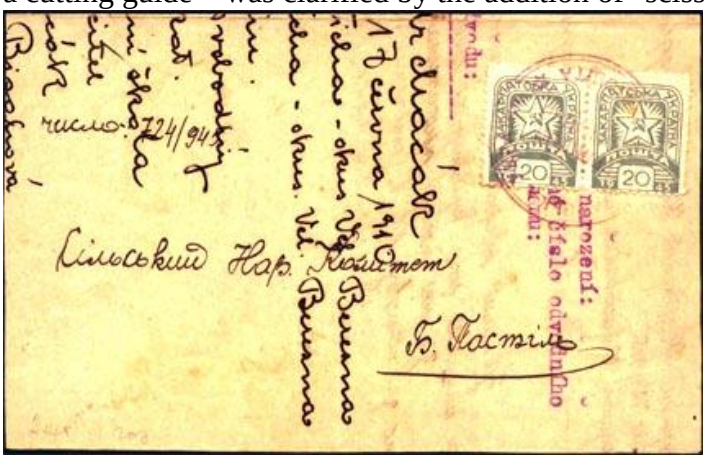



*Figure 30. Undated official cover mailed from Veliky Bereznyi bearing two Third NRZU Issue 20f stamps.*

**Cancellations**

The NRZU manufactured and distributed rubber handstamp canceling devices to at least 90 post offices. These double-ring cancellations are about 35mm in diameter (worn impressions approach 40mm) and were generally struck in black or violet. The text "ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА УКРАЇНА / ПОШТА" (Transcarpathian Ukraine / Post) wraps around the inside of the circle while the post office name appears in the center (Figure 31).

*Figure 31. The NRZU provisional cancel.*

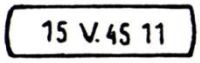



*Figure 32.*
*Date bridge from bilingual Hungarian canceler*

In general, dates on Carpatho-Ukrainian cancellations were usually handwritten (or omitted), but some offices employed date handstamps, even including the date-bridge from an old canceling device (see Figure 32). The dimensions of this date stamp, 25 mm by 6.75 mm, are a close match to the bilingual cancelers used during the Hungarian occupation, but the order of the components has been changed from "Year. Month. Day. Hour." to "Day. Month. Year. Hour.".

Locally produced provisional cancels are known from a few offices: Berehove (boxed), Khust (a pre-war canceler with the Czech name removed), Rakoshin (boxed), and Shalanki (circular). Berehove also used a standard NRZU canceler. Handwritten cancellations were used in Seredne, Siltse (see Figure 28), Vilok, and Zalush. Seredne, Vilok, and Zalush also used NRZU cancelers, but only manuscript cancels are known from Siltse.

The cover in Figure 33 shows a handstamp from Rakoshin used in two different ways: to cancel the franking and to indicate registration. The Hungarian name "RÁKOS" has been removed from the upper part of the box, and this space is now used to enter the date (15 VI 1945) or the registry number (79). Addressed to Sándorfalva in Hungary, the item appears to be underfranked by 20f.

*Figure 33. Rakoshin provisional cancel.*

**Censorship**

Many Carpatho-Ukraine covers bear a two-line boxed censor mark in black, violet or lilac with the two-line inscription "Закарпатська Україна / пробачено цензурою" (Carpatho Ukraine / examined by censor); see Figure 34. A handwritten censor number was normally inserted in the box. All censoring was done in Uzhhorod.

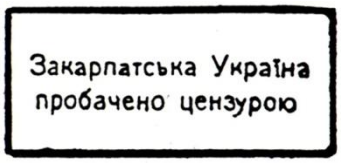



*Figure 34. Censor mark.*

Most censored covers have been opened by the censor on the right side and then re-glued from the inside. This is not the case with the Figure 33 cover, which was probably delivered to the censor unsealed. This approach to opening covers for censorship is also seen in post-WWII covers from Poland and the Soviet Zone of Germany.

The covers shown in Figures 20 (see **First Definitive Issue**) and 31 (see **Cancellations**) above also display this marking, while the cover in Figure 15 (see **Second Edition**) has the censor mark on the reverse.

Figure 35 is an unoverprinted Hungarian postal card, "canceled" with the NRZU censor mark and endorsed by manuscript "Uzhhorod 1945 1/29". This is the earliest use of the censor mark known to the authors, and the card can also be considered a forerunner to the NRZU overprinted postal stationery issued in February of 1945 (see Chapter 14).

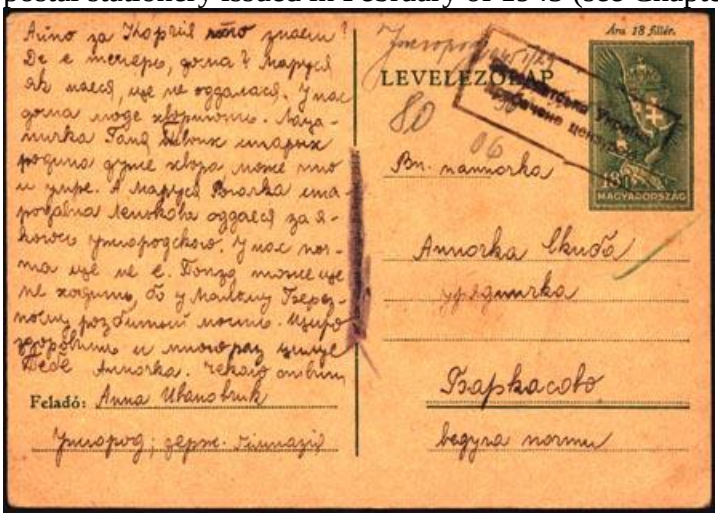



*Figure 35. Censorship mark used as cancellation.*

**Epilog**

Carpatho-Ukraine's brief period of postal autonomy came to an end on 15 November 1945 when the territory was incorporated into the Soviet Union as the Zakarpatska oblast of the Ukrainian S. S. R. Stamps of the Soviet Union were soon placed into use (early December usages are known; see Figure 36). In addition, covers with Carpatho-Ukraine stamps (especially the second and third definitive issues) are known well into January 1946 (Figure 37). Many of the NRZU provisional cancels (and stamps!) also continued to be used after the territory was incorporated into the Ukrainian S.S.R.

*Figure 36. Early use of Soviet stamp (9 December 1945).*

*Figure 37. Late use of Carpatho-Ukraine stamp (24 January 1946).*

NRZU cancelers were not only used for postal purposes, but for fiscal purposes as well. Figure 38 shows a cancellation on an insurance document.

*Figure 38. Confirmation of receipt for an insurance payment (still denominated in Pengő and fillér),*
*with a 15-kopek Soviet stamp, an Uzhhorod NRZU cancel, and a 24.XII.45 datestamp.*

**Conclusion**

The preceding paragraphs have attempted to convey a portion of the breadth and scope of collecting Carpatho-Ukraine. Although only the major issues have been described for 1939 and 1945, a large number of collectible varieties exist. Even by today's standards, this is an incredible number of stamps for such a small entity in such a short period of time.

In spite of these numbers, we have virtually ignored several closely related areas such as postal stationery (see chapter 14 for an inventory of Carpatho-Ukrainian stationery items); the 1944 local Czech "liberation" issues of Khust, Berehove, and Mukachiv; and the enigmatic local issue of Teresva. Finally, the fields of cancellations and postal history offer considerable depth and opportunities for new discoveries.

Many collectors choose to assemble the entire philatelic history of Carpatho-Ukraine, from the pre-stamp era through the Soviet period and presumably including today's independent Ukraine.

While there are obvious financial barriers to acquiring many of the scarcer items from the 1945 period, the greatest difficulty is in finding the material at all. If you are a collector who likes a challenge, this could be just what you are looking for.

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## CARPATHO-UKRAINIAN POSTAL STATIONERY, 1939 and 1945

***by Ingert Kuzych and Jay Carrigan***

[This article is scheduled to be published by the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society sometime in 2003, in a revised edition of its *Handbook of Classic Ukrainian Philately*, Chapter 14. All rights reserved.]

### Introduction

Early in February of 1939, exciting announcements began to appear in the Czechoslovak daily press and in some philatelic publications about the issuance of a stamp to commemorate the opening of the First Carpatho-Ukrainian National Assembly in Khust the following month. This lead-time allowed for ample opportunity to produce suitable commemorative stationery upon which to affix this special regional stamp.

Originally, the National Assembly was to take place on Thursday, 2 March 1939 and this is the date shown on the stamp design. But the stamp did not appear on 2 March and the National Assembly was repeatedly rescheduled, first to the 9th, then the 14th, and there was even talk of the 21st. The reason for the postponements was that the Czechoslovak authorities feared – with some justification - that the Carpatho-Ukrainians would try to secede from the Czechoslovak Federation.

It was on the 14th, however, that Slovakia first broke away from Czechoslovakia and Carpatho-Ukraine found itself literally cut off from the rest of the country. That evening Carpatho-Ukraine first announced its independence by radio and plans were quickly made to hold a National Assembly the following day. On Wednesday the 15th, the Carpatho-Ukrainian stamps were put on sale late in the morning. No longer regional stamps, they now became the country's first stamp issue. Later in the day, the deputies of the Assembly formally proclaimed independence and adopted a constitution.

These acts were, in essence, symbolic gestures. Even as the decrees were being passed, the Hungarian army was marching on Khust. Within a few days, all of Carpatho-Ukraine was occupied and the members of the government had fled abroad. Carpatho-Ukraine would remain part of Hungary until the fall of 1944.

[Regrettably, the illustrations for this section are not yet available.]

### National Assembly Issue First Day Commemoratives

Several different commemorative stationery formats were available for use on 15 March when the 3-koruny stamp was first put into circulation. They had been prepared for the originally scheduled opening of the National Assembly on the 2nd of March and had been set aside for the

day when the Assembly finally would meet. So, when Carpatho-Ukraine issued its first stamp, there were plenty of suitable first day materials available at hand.

All of these commemorative products were privately produced and would normally not be included in an itemization of postal stationery. However, these items are important and popular collectibles among Carpatho-Ukraine specialists and they represent the only instance of first day stationery being produced in Ukraine during the Classic Period. It is for these reasons that the materials are described below and listed in Table 1.

**Cards.** The smallest commemorative article prepared was a three-color card (approximately 12.5 by 8 cm) whose upper and lower borders both display a blue and yellow stripe, each 4 mm wide (Figure 1). The upper left corner of the central white portion of the card shows a sword-in-trident design over the Ukrainian words **СЛАВА УКРАЇНІ!** (Glory to Ukraine!).

The second item of commemorative stationery available in Khust at the time of independence was a large (approximately 212 by 294 mm) five-color, commemorative mounting page (Figure 7). Centered at the top of this page is the Carpatho-Ukrainian coat of arms; below it is a large blowup of the 3- koruny stamp that differs from the true stamp design in a number of details. Just below the stamp is a black obliterating bar that covers a one-line Ukrainian inscription that originally read: **ВІТВОРЕННЯ СОЙМУ КАРПАТСЬКОЇ УКРАЇНИ** (Opening of the Assembly of Carpatho-Ukraine). Apparently, it was felt that the word for 'opening' was grammatically inappropriate and so a new three-line, black inscription was appended: **ВІТКРЕТТЯ / ПЕРШОГО СОЙМУ КАРПАТСЬКОЇ УКРАЇНИ / ХУСТ - 1939**" (Opening of the First Assembly of Carpatho-Ukraine, Khust 1939). A large amount of blank space below the text left plenty of room for a stamp and cancellation.

Another mounting card shows an illustration in the upper center that matches the stamp vignette. Printed in a dark blue similar to the stamp, the attractive card measures 105 by 145 mm. Underneath is the three-line inscription **ЗАСІДАННЯ ПЕРШОГО СОЙМУ / «КАРПАТСЬКОЇ УКРАЇНИ» / ХУСТ – 1939.** (Session of the First Assembly of Carpatho-Ukraine, Khust-1939).

The above-described commemorative cards should not be confused with a bogus souvenir sheet that also reproduces the Carpatho-Ukrainian stamp (in approximately true size) over the two-line Ukrainian inscription: **ОТВОРЕННЯ 1. СОЙМУ КАРПАТСЬКОЇ УКРАЇНИ / 2.III.1939** (Opening of the 1st Assembly of Carpatho-Ukraine, 2 March 1939), Figure 8. A full color reproduction of the Carpatho-Ukrainian coat of arms appears below the text.

These souvenir sheets were prepared six at a time on a printing sheet measuring 295 by 228 mm. The sheet was then cut randomly yielding souvenir sheets of varying sizes. The following dimensions have been recorded: 80 x 97 mm, 80 x 114 mm, 83 x 110 mm, and 106 x 114 mm. Many additional sizes undoubtedly exist.

Only about 200 copies of this souvenir sheet were sold before the perpetrator - a printer from Olomouc, Moravia by the name of M. Komínek - was caught and all his remaining copies (some 800) were destroyed. The entire rip-off scheme was rather slipshod and it is surprising that so many of these sheets were sold. The grammar in the text is wrong, some of the letters were not well formed, the coat of arms was poorly drawn, and the reverse was crudely gummed.

**Envelopes and Post Card.** The remaining five products more closely resemble typical first day stationery. The first is an envelope (about 186 by 123 mm) evidently made by the same printer who created the mounting sheet. The same enlarged and modified Carpatho-Ukraine stamp appears on the left of the envelope. Beneath is an obliteration bar and the same three-line text as on the sheet (Figure 9). This is the most common type of first day envelope found.

Another printer evidently prepared the next several items because they all closely resemble each other. They are the most tastefully produced and carry the same blue vignette in their upper left corners as appears on the stamp. The articles consist of a gray-white card (150 by 100 mm) and a creamy white envelope (177 by 114 mm), see Figure 10.
A variant of the above envelope exists where the first two lines of Ukrainian text are identical, but the third line reads **ХУСТ – 1939 – CHUST** (Ukrainian and Czech) and the two additional lines in Czech read: **ZASEDÁNÍ PRVÉHO SNĚMU / KARPATSKÉ UKRAJINY** (the same meaning as the Ukrainian inscription). The Czech letters are formed with a non-serif type (Figure 11). Because the vignettes on these envelopes and card are identical to the second of the two mounting cards described above, all four items were most likely produced by the same person.
Finally, a simple non-decorated (sans illustration) envelope is known. It displays an outer border and four lines of text in the upper left: **ПЕРШЕ ЗАСІДАННЯ СОЙМУ / КАРПАТСЬКОЇ УКРАЇНИ / ХУСТ / 2. III. 1939**" (First Session of the Carpatho-Ukrainian Assembly, Khust, 2 March 1939). [Dimensions and color of this item are unknown.] This envelope is the scarcest of the four produced for the Opening of the National Assembly.

**Table 1: KHUST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ISSUE FIRST DAY COMMEMORATIVES**

| Number | Item | Description of Stationery | Value* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | card | Commemorative card with sword-in-trident | $30 |
| 2 | card | Mounting card with large 3-koruny stamp image, obliterating bar, and three-line Ukrainian text | $40 |
| 3 | card | Mounting card with vignette of 3-koruny and three-line Ukrainian text | $50 |
| 4 | post card | Post card with vignette of 3-koruny stamp and three-line Ukrainian text | $125 |
| 5 | envelope | Envelope with large 3-koruny stamp cachet, obliterating bar, and three-line Ukrainian text | $75 |
| 6 | envelope | Envelope with vignette of 3-koruny stamp and three-line Ukrainian text | $150 |
| 7 | envelope | Envelope with vignette of 3-koruny stamp and five-line Ukrainian-Czech text | $175 |
| 8 | envelope | Bordered envelope with four-line Ukrainian text | $200 |

* - Prices are for items bearing the 3- koruny National Assembly stamp and cancelled with a legitimate 15 March 1939 cancellation.

**Available Cancellations in March of 1939**
Officially postmarked versions of this commemorative card - and all subsequently described stationery items - carry the 3-krone blue stamp with a red, double-ring cancellation (31.5mm diameter) and the superscript "***XYCT-CHUST***". The date bridge reads: 15.III.39-15 (i.e. 15 March 1939, 3pm). The subscript has the Ukrainian text **ВІДКРИТТЯ ПЕРШОГО СОЙМУ** (Opening of the First Assembly), Figure 2. *Cancel forgeries are 32mm in diameter and display differences in some letters (the* **Х** *in* ХУСТ *or the* **Й** *in* **СОЙМУ***), in serifs on numbers, and in the size of the asterisks (Figure 3).*

Apart from this official cancel, the usual bilingual (Czech-Ukrainian) double-ring date cancellers (32mm) for this post office continued in use (Figure 4). Reading **CHUST** across the top, and **ХУСТ** along the bottom, they had a subscript letter below the bridge. These markings were applied in black on normal commercial mail, while the commemorative cancel was available at a special counter that served collectors, or upon request as a favor cancel. For this reason, genuine registered letters franked with the commemorative stamp and cancelled with the normal bilingual type in black are much rarer than those carrying the red special cancellation. Conversely, normal Czechoslovakian stamps treated with the red cancel are also very desirable. *An easy-to-recognize fantasy is known of this cancellation. Its date is "*15.III.39-16*" and it has an "f" subscript that is not known on contemporary cancels from Khust (Figure 5). This marking was apparently a backdated favor cancel.*

Red cancels similar to the commemorative cancel described above, but with a date bridge of 2.III.39-10 (i.e. 2 March 1939, 10am) and with a subscript letters "a" or "b", were prepared for the originally scheduled session but never used at that time. These two cancels were applied by favor in the confusing days following the 15th and were not officially sanctioned by Ukrainian postal authorities.

Collectors should beware of any Carpatho-Ukraine materials of this time carrying these cancels or another of the same size and red color with a much smaller date bridge (but the same 2.III.39-10 date) and a prominent Carpatho-Ukrainian coat of arms. An even larger cancellation (37 mm in diameter) in blue and yellow is sometimes found. It is left over from 21 January 1939 commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Central Ukrainian National Council. It too, obviously, was not officially approved. Figure 6 displays all the unofficial cancellations.

**NRZU-Overprinted Stationery**

In the wake of the Red Army's occupation of Carpatho-Ukraine in October of 1944, a communist-dominated People's Council of Carpatho-Ukraine (NRZU) began to take over the running of the region, including postal affairs. In addition to the supplying of postage stamps, the NRZU also machine overprinted remaining supplies of Hungarian postal cards in three locations: Uzhhorod, Mukachiv, and Berehove.

The overprinting apparently took place at all three locales about the same time as the Uzhhorod stamp overprints (see Chapter 7); a date of 10 February is commonly cited. In some instances, postal cards previously hand-overprinted **ČSP / ·1944·** in Khust - by a short-lived Czechoslovak administration - were included in the stocks for machine overprinting. Although some 16,000 of these 18f Khust cards (and an unknown number of 12f cards) had been prepared in about mid-November 1944, few, if any, apparently had ever been put into circulation by the time the Czechs pulled out in mid-January 1945.[1]

*Figure 12. NRZU-overprinted stationery types.*

1. - A total of 244 letter-cards also received the **ČSP / —1944—** overprint in Khust. In addition, on behalf of the Czechoslovak administration, several postal cards and other postal forms were overprinted in Mukachiv with a **ČSR** handstamp. Like the Khust postal stationery materials, few of these items were ever put to use.

**Overprinted Hungarian Postal Stationery**

The NRZU-overprinted cards were produced from the following eight Hungarian postal stationery items:

12-fillér brown red, single postal card, inscribed **LEVELEZŐLAP**.

12-fillér brown red, double card (message half), inscribed **LEVELEZŐLAP VALASZLAPPAL /**
**CARTE POSTALE AVEC RÉPONSE PAYÉE**.

12-fillér brown red, double card (reply half), inscribed **LEVELEZŐLAP / (VALASZ) /**
**CARTE POSTALE / (RÉPONSE)**.

18-fillér dark green, single postal card, inscribed **LEVELEZŐLAP**.

18-fillér dark green, double card (message half), inscribed **LEVELEZŐLAP VALASZLAPPAL /**
**CARTE POSTALE AVEC RÉPONSE PAYÉE**.

18-fillér dark green, double card (reply half), inscribed **LEVELEZŐLAP / (VALASZ) /**
**CARTE POSTALE / (RÉPONSE)**.

No value, rose field post card (homeland to field), inscribed **TÁBORI POSTAI**
**LEVELEZŐLAP**.

No value, gray green field post card (field to homeland), inscribed **TÁBORI POSTAI**
**LEVELEZŐLAP**.

All of these cards bear a printer's imprint reading from bottom to top in the center of the card. The imprint ends with a printing date, which is normally 1941 for the 12-fillér double cards, 1943 for 18-fillér double cards, and 1944 for 12-fillér and 18-fillér single cards and the field post cards.

The printing dates are often covered by the overprint, but can usually be distinguished upon close examination. Some 18-fillér single postal cards have been found with 1943 printing dates

(instead of 1944). Further research is required to identify all of the printing dates found on the overprinted cards, since this aspect seems to not have been considered by previous authors. Quantities of the postal cards and double cards earlier received a local hand overprint of Khust (**ČSP / —1944—**). The double cards were then separated into single message cards and reply cards. All these overprinted cards found little or no use and subsequently received the various NRZU machine overprints along with unoverprinted cards.
The rose field post card (but not the gray green card!) likewise received a handstamped overprint in Khust. This was in the form of a rectangle (35 x 23 mm) containing three lines:
**Československá pošta / — 18 f. — / Чехословацька пошта**.

**A Note on Valuations**
The values given in the tables for NRZU-Overprinted Stationery represent the authors' opinions of current average market values. Market prices may fluctuate both above and below these values, depending on a number of factors. Many of these items are so rarely traded that the values are at best guesses, and these are so indicated in the tables by the use of italics. Cancelled-to-order stationery should be valued as mint + 10%.

**Criteria for Listing**
Ideally, we would like to be able to state that the existence of every card in the listings has been personally verified. Unfortunately, this has not proven to be possible. In some cases it was necessary to apply a degree of editorial judgement. Several unverified cards have been listed because they appear in other sources or, based on deductive reasoning, because it makes sense that a particular card should exist. Likewise, other cards listed by other authors were omitted here, because the authors feel that it is highly unlikely that those cards do in fact exist. Obviously, the field of Carpatho-Ukrainian stationery awaits new discoveries. The authors would appreciate hearing about such discoveries, including verification of those cards footnoted in the listings as "not verified." Additionally, any compelling evidence that cards listed on the basis of editorial judgement do not in fact exist would also be welcome.

**Uzhhorod Stationery**
Uzhhorod, the interwar capital of Carpatho-Ukraine, overprinted the Hungarian 1944-issue 18f postal cards with a 40f Overprint A, using the Type IV cliché also used on the First Uzhhorod Issue stamps (reading upward at a 38-degree angle; Figure 12-1). Initially the text portion of the card was not overprinted, but later all the Hungarian text was obliterated with black bars (Figure 13). The same transformation was applied to 5,000 cards from Khust.

*Figure 12-1. Uzhhorod overprint.*

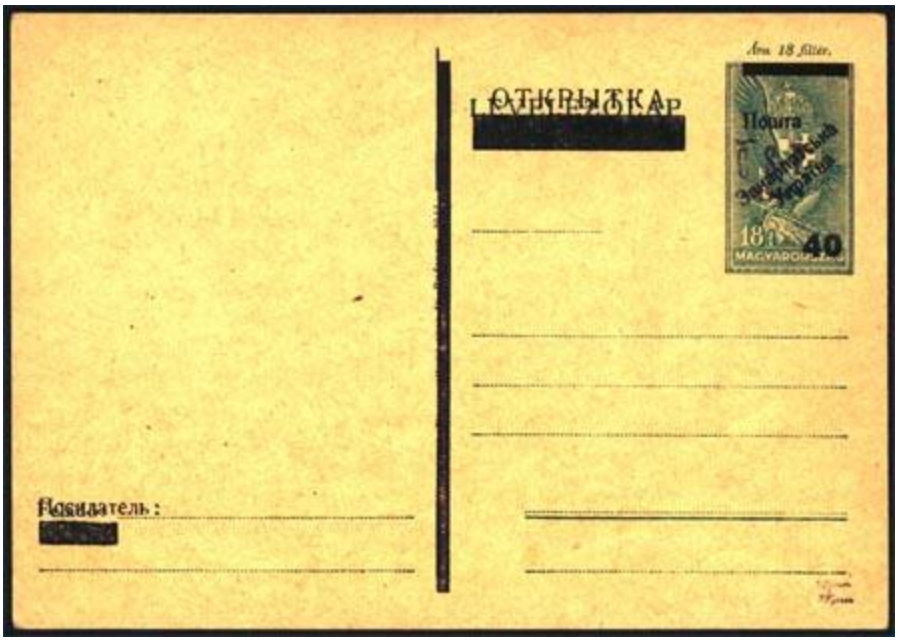



*Figure 13. Overprinted Uzhhorod postal card with black obliterations and prior Khust overprint* **ČSP / —1944—**.

| **Table 2: UZHHOROD STATIONERY** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |
| **Number** | **Overprint** | **Item** | **Description of Stationery** | **Value** | |
| | | | | **Mint** | **Used** |
| | | | | | |
| 1 | black | PC | **Пошта / Закарпатська / Україна / 40** on 1944 18f without obliterations | *$500* | *$1,000* |
| 2 | black | PC | **Пошта / Закарпатська / Україна / 40** on 1944 18f with obliterations | $100 | $350 |
| 3 (2)[2] | black | PC | **Пошта / Закарпатська / Україна / 40** over **ČSP / —1944—** on 1944 18f | $75 | $250 |

2. - Numbers in parentheses refer back to corresponding cards that are identical, but which do not carry overprints applied in Khust.

**Mukachiv Stationery**

The seat of the NRZU in Mukachiv easily produced the greatest number of postal stationery items. A diagonal, two-line, Ukrainian inscription was adopted for two separate printings. Reading upwards at a 58-degree angle, the overprint was made up solely of capital letters using a serif type. The first printing, using black ink, revalued both 12f and 18f postal cards to **—.40** [fillér]. Some 2,000 additional 18f postal cards from Khust also received this overprint.
The second printing, with red ink, again revalued both 12f and 18f 1944-issue postal cards, but this time to **1.—** [Pengő], see Figure 14. Both unoverprinted and Khust-overprinted 12f postal cards were transformed as were both message and reply halves of separated 1941-issue 12f double cards (presently not known without the Khust overprint).

*Figure 14. Overprinted Mukachiv postal card with red obliterations.*

Similarly, the red overprint was also applied to 18f postal cards and to 1943-issue 18f double cards (both halves), see Figure 15. All these items may or may not have the Khust **ČSP / — 1944**— marking. (One thousand previously overprinted cards were reported to have been produced.)

*Figure 15. Message half of a double card with red Mukachiv overprint (damaged* **Отправитель** at lower left).

Red overprints exist in a variety of shades, from light to dark. This is especially noticeable on postal cards numbered 11 and 14 below. Overprint-shifted and overprint-doubled varieties have been recorded (Figure 16). Variations in the dimensions of some of the obliteration bars also exist.

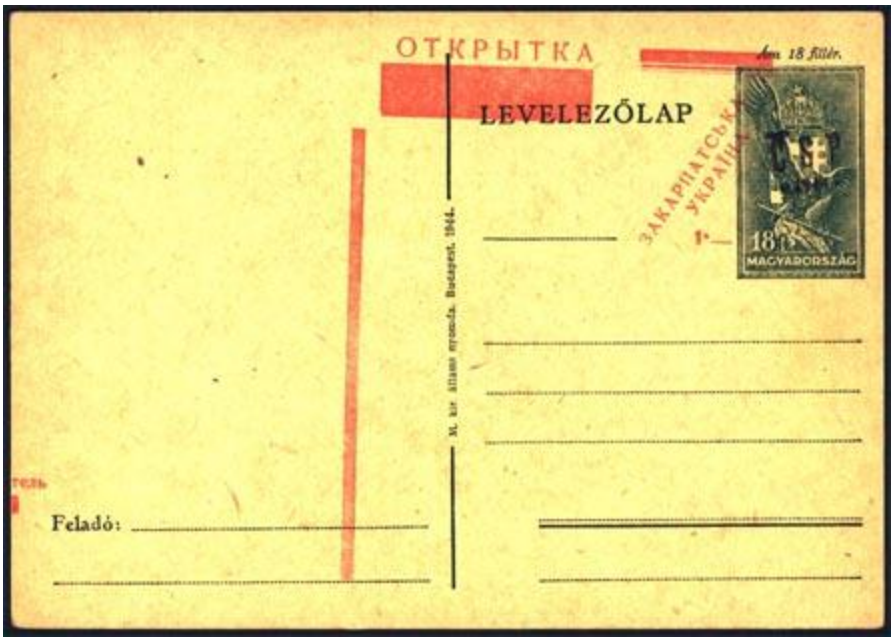



*Figure 16. Shifted Mukachiv overprint on card with prior* **ČSP / —1944—** *overprint.*

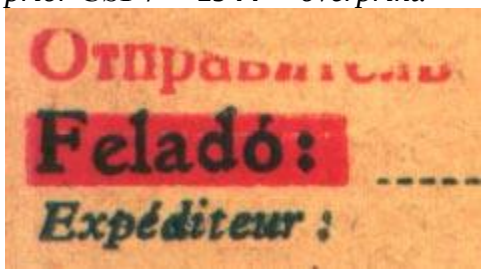



*Figure 17. Damaged* **Отправитель** *overprint variety appears on all 18-fillér message cards seen to date.*

*This variety does not occur on the (so far) only known 12-filler message card.*

| **Table 3: MUKACHIV STATIONERY** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Number** | **Overprint** | **Item** | **Description of Stationery** | **Value** | |
| | | | | **Mint** | **Used** |
| **Black Overprint (—.40)** | | | | | |
| 4 | black | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / —.40** on 1944 12f | $200 | $500 |
| 5 | black | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / —.40** on 1944 18f | $100 | $250 |
| 6 (5) | black | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / —.40** over **ČSP / —1944—** on 1944 18f | $100 | $300 |
| | | | | | |
| **Red Overprint (1. —) on 12-filler Cards** | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| 7 | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —** on 1944 12f; 36 by 9 mm obliterating bar upper center | $150 | *$400* |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 (7) | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —** over **ČSP / —1944—** on 1944 12f; 36 by 9 mm obliterating bar upper center | $150 | *$400* |
| 9 | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —** over **ČSP / —1944—** on 1941 12f message half; 90 by 9 mm obliterating bar upper center (composed of two sections: 54 and 36 mm) | $250 | *$500* |
| 10[3] | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —** over **ČSP / —1944—** on 1941 12f reply half | *$250* | *$500* |
| | | | | | |
| **Red Overprint (1. —) on 18-filler Cards** | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| 11a | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —** on 1944 18f; 36 by 4.5 mm obliterating bar upper center | $150 | $350 |
| 11aY | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —** on **1943** 18f; 36 by 4.5 mm obliterating bar upper center | *$300* | *$500* |
| 11b | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —** on 1944 18f; 36 by 9 mm obliterating bar upper center | $75 | $200 |
| 12 | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —** on 1943 18f message half; 90 by 9 mm obliterating bar upper center (composed of two sections: 54 and 36 mm); damaged **Отправитель**[4] | $125 | $350 |
| 13 | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —** on 1943 18f reply half; 36 by 9 mm obliterating bar upper center | $125 | $350 |
| It is possible that card No. 13 also exists with three obliterating bars (as in card No. 16). | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| **Red Overprint (1. —) on 18-filler Cards, with ČSP / —1944—** | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| 14a (11a)[5] | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —**over **ČSP / —1944—** on 1944 18f; 36 by 4.5 mm obliterating bar upper center | *$150* | *$400* |
| 14b (11b) | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —**over **ČSP / —1944—** on 1944 18f; 36 by 9 mm obliterating bar upper center | $75 | $200 |
| 14bd | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —**over **ČSP / —1944—** on 1944 18f; 36 by 9 mm obliterating bar upper center; Khust overprint doubled | $250 | *$750* |
| 14bs | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —**over **ČSP / —1944—** on 1944 18f; 36 by 9 mm obliterating bar upper center; shifted overprint | $125 | *$350* |
| 15 (12)[6] | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —**over **ČSP / —1944—** on 1943 18f message half | *$200* | *$500* |
| 16 | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —**" over **ČSP** | *$200* | *$500* |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | / —**1944**— on 1943 18f reply half; three bars stacked (36 by 9 mm, 36 by 3.5 mm, and 36 by 2 mm) upper center | | |
| It is possible that card No. 16 also exists with a single 36 by 9 mm obliterating bar (as in card No. 13). | | | | | |

3. - The existence of this card type has not been confirmed, but since the message half is known, the reply half is assumed to have also been produced. These same overprinted cards, but without the prior Khust **ČSP / ·1944·** overprint, are listed by some authorities but probably do not exist.
4. - Only cards with damaged **Отправитель** have been seen by the authors. Varieties with an undamaged word may exist.The existence of this card type has not been confirmed by the authors.
5. - The existence of this card type has not been confirmed by the authors.
6. - The existence of this card has not been confirmed by the authors, but since the reply half is known, the message half is assumed to have been produced.

**Berehove Stationery**

The smallest of the three towns where overprinting occurred was Berehove. Here the 1944-issue 18f postal cards were also revalued "—.40"[fillér], but the two-line text, rather surprisingly, spelled Carpatho-Ukraine in Russian. The text, all in capital letters, reads upward almost vertically at an 82-degree angle. The overprint is known with two sizes of the obliterating bar in the upper right corner: 18mm (Figure 18) and 22mm. All of the overprinting – inscription and obliteration – is in black. Some 5,000 previously overprinted Khust cards were also prepared with a Berehove overprint.

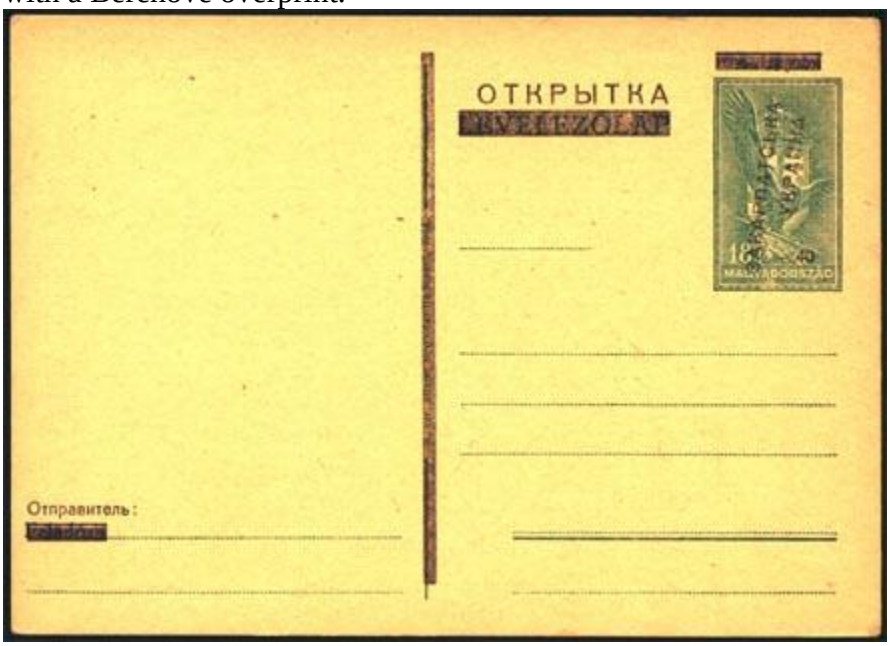



*Figure 18. Berehove postal card with short (18 mm) obliterating bar.*

| **Table 4: BEREHOVE STATIONERY** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |
| **Number** | **Overprint** | **Item** | **Description of Stationery** | **Value** | |
| | | | | **Mint** | **Used** |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17a | black | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАИНА / —.40** on 1944 18f; with 18mm obliterating bar in UR | $75 | $150 |
| 17b | black | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАИНА / —.40** on 1944 18f; with 22mm obliterating bar in UR | $125 | $200 |
| 18a (17a) | black | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАИНА / —.40** over **ČSP / —1944—** on 1944 18f; with 18mm obliterating bar in UR | $100 | $250 |
| 18aY | black | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАИНА / —.40** over **ČSP / —1944—** on **1943** 18f; with 18mm obliterating bar in UR | *$350* | *$600* |
| 18b (17b)[7] | black | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАИНА / —.40** over **ČSP / —1944—** on 1944 18f; with 22mm obliterating bar in UR | *$250* | *$400* |

7. - The existence of this card has not been confirmed by the authors, but is strongly suspected.

**Field Post Stationery**

A **—.40**[fillér] surcharge was applied to available non-denominated (postage free) 1944-issue Hungarian field post cards. Here, however, the production site is less certain, as both Uzhhorod and Mukachiv have been mentioned in the literature. Nevertheless, a slight majority of Carpatho-Ukraine experts tend to favor the latter location as the likely source.

A total of 2,000 rose-colored field post cards were overprinted. The black obliterating bar at the upper left can be either 45mm or 63mm. An unknown quantity of both these types, but with prior Khust surcharges, are also known to exist [a lengthwise rectangle with bilingual Czech (upper) and Ukrainian (lower) text, and an 18f in the middle], see Figure 19. Some sources claim that the Khust overprint exists in both handstamp and machine (typographed) versions. We cannot, however, verify the existence of the machine overprint.

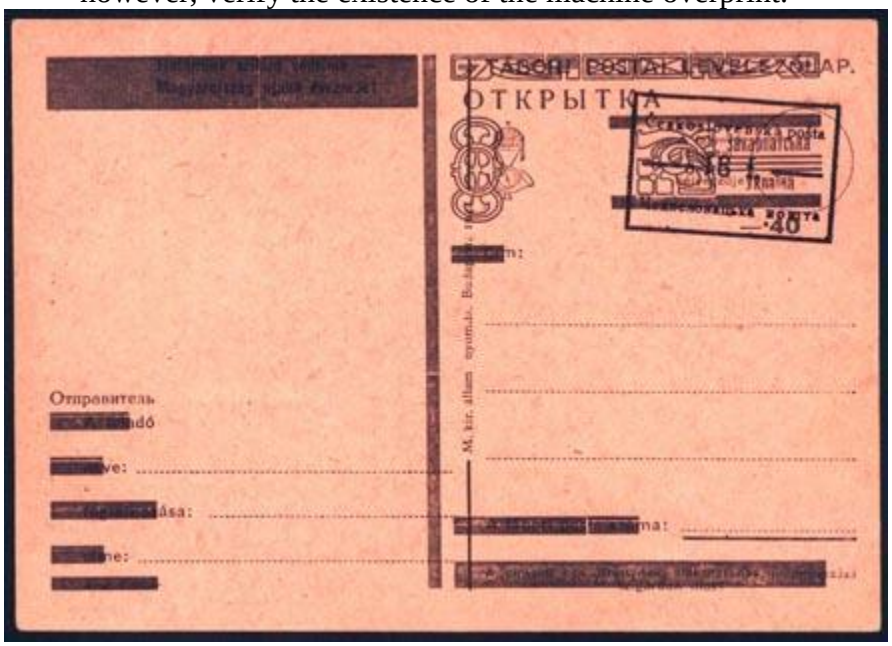



*Figure 19a. Overprinted rose field post card (previously surcharged)*

*Figure 19b. Close-up of boxed Khust surcharge.*

*with long (63 mm) black obliterating bar in upper left.*

A total of 5,000 gray-green field post cards were also overprinted, but only with a 63mm black bar (Figure 20). Contrary to some claims, they do not exist with prior Khust markings (however, a single example has been found with a prior Mukachiv **ČSR** overprint).

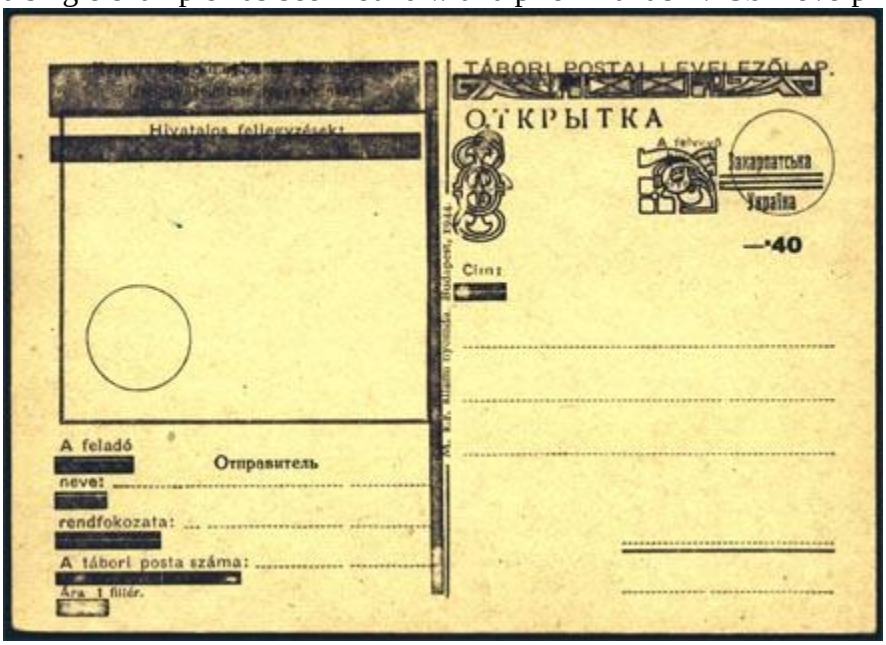



*Figure 20. Overprinted gray-green filed post card.*

A few printing varieties are known (see Figures 21 and 22). These cards are also known with skewed and doubled overprints (Figure 23).

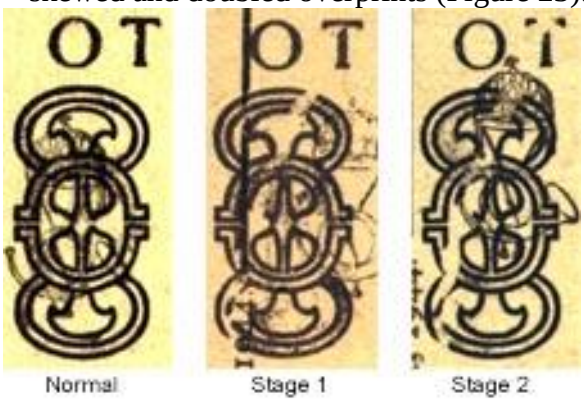



*Figure 21. Ornament flaws.*

*Figure 22. Missing decimal point variety.*

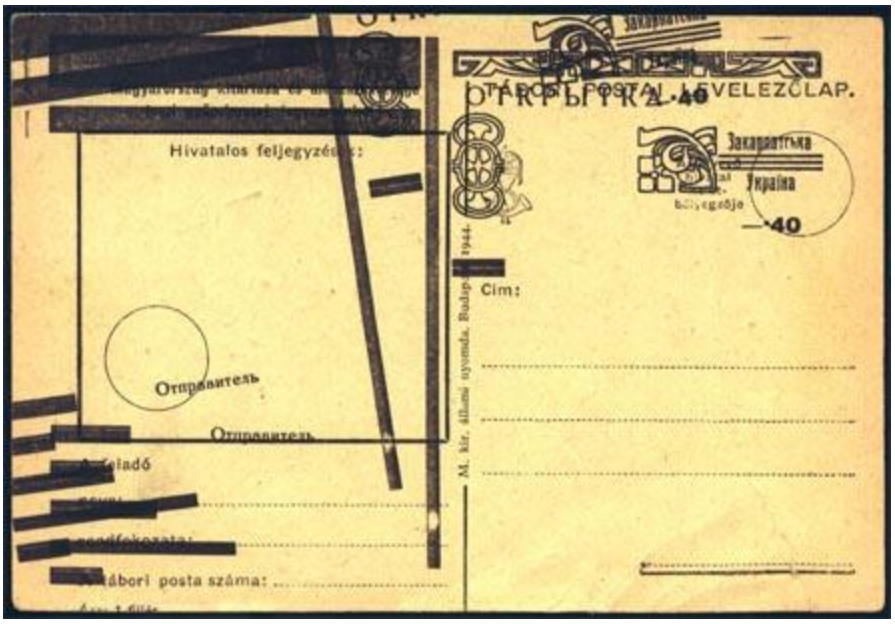



*Figure 23. Double overprint, one skewed.*

**Table 5: FIELD POST STATIONERY**

| Number | Overprint | Item | Description of Stationery | Value | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | **Mint** | **Used** |
| 19a | black | FPC | **Закарпатська / Україна / —.40** on rose-colored card; 45mm obliterating bar in UL | $40 | $125 |
| 19b | black | FPC | **Закарпатська / Україна / —.40** on rose-colored card; 63mm obliterating bar in UL | $75 | $150 |
| 20a (19a) | black | FPC | **Закарпатська / Україна / —.40** over **Československa posta / — 18f. — / Чехословатська пошта** on rose-colored card; 45mm obliterating bar in UL | $100 | $200 |
| 20b (19b) | black | FPC | **Закарпатська / Україна / —.40** over **Československa posta / — 18f. — / Чехословатська пошта** on rose-colored card; 63mm obliterating bar in UL | $150 | $250 |
| 21 | black | FPC | **Закарпатська / Україна / —.40** on gray-green card | $40 | $75 |
| *The following overprint varieties have been noted on the gray-green card only.* | | | | | |
| 21v1 | black | FPC | **Закарпатська / Україна / —.40** on gray-green card; with damaged ornament (Stage 1) | +10% | +10% |
| 21v2 | black | FPC | **Закарпатська / Україна / —.40** on gray-green card; with damaged ornament and damaged **T** (Stage 2) | +10% | +10% |
| 21v3 | black | FPC | **Закарпатська / Україна / — 40** on gray-green card; with missing decimal point in **— 40** (with Stage | +20% | +20% |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 ornament flaw) | | |
| 21sv1 | black | FPC | **Закарпатська / Україна / —.40** on gray-green card; shifted overprint; with damaged ornament (Stage 1) | $75 | |
| 21d | black | FPC | **Закарпатська / Україна / —.40** on gray-green card; double overprint | $200 | |
| 21ds | black | FPC | **Закарпатська / Україна / —.40** on gray-green card; double overprint, one skewed | $200 | |
| 22 (21) | black | FPC | **Закарпатська / Україна / —.40** on gray-green card with prior Mukachiv **ČSR** handstamp | | *$400* |

http://www.jaypex.com/NT/intro.htm
**Romania**
**Local Issues of Northern Transylvania 1944-1945**
**(Transilvania du Nord / Északerdély)**
**Under Construction**
**BACKGROUND**
The territory of Transylvania, in the northwestern part of present-day Romania, was incorporated into Hungary until the Treaty of Trianon (June 4, 1920), at which time it was awarded to Romania. As a result of the 2nd Vienna Award (August 30, 1940), the northern portion of this territory was returned to Hungary. Following World War II, it was again incorporated into Romania. These facts alone give this region a rich and interesting postal history.

**Picture post card to Budapest, with special VISSZATÉRT ("returned") cancel of**
**Kolozsvár (Cluj in Romanian) and separate Sept. 13, 1940**
**Kolozsvár datestamp.**

**The Hungarian stamp commemorates the return of Northern Transylvania.**

What is little known, even among philatelists, is that Northern Transylvania achieved a degree of quasi-independence (in civil matters) under the occupation of the Red Army. Romania, one of the Axis powers, surrendered unconditionally on August 23, 1944, shortly after her borders were crossed by Soviet troops.

**Censored cover dated August 23, 1944**
**(date of the coup d'état that overthrew the Antonescu government).**

On September 12, 1944, an armistice was concluded in which the USSR promised to return Northern Transylvania to Romania, and Romania agreed to commit its military forces to the allied cause. The 1920 frontier was formally re-established by the peace treaty of February 10, 1947.

Soviet and Romanian troops first entered Northern Transylvania on September 21, 1944, and on October 25 finally succeeded in clearing the entire region from the defending Hungarian and German troops. In spite of the armistice agreement, Romanian civil officials were not allowed to assume civil control. The Red Army continued to hold the area under military occupation, granting autonomy to each district in civil matters.

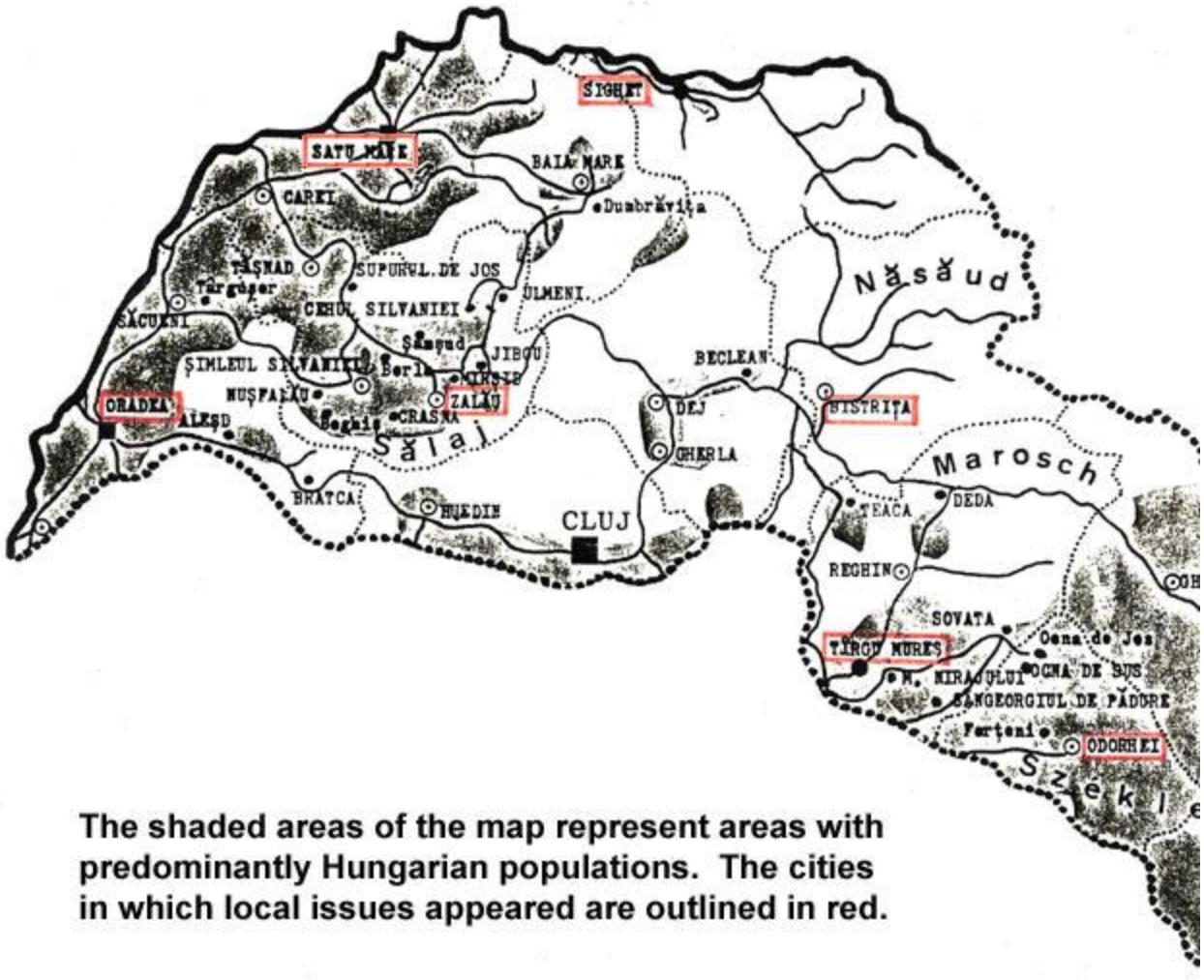
**8 Oct. 1944 , Romanian forces in Northern Transylvania.**
**Post card from FPO 941 (21st Infantry Division), unit cachet with handwritten censor notation.**

Some civilian officials, including postal personnel, accompanied Romanian military units into the southeastern portion of the region, but were quickly ordered to leave by the Soviets. Some supplies of Romanian postage stamps were, however, left behind.

Permission to resume civil control over Northern Transylvania was granted on March 11, 1945, and Romanian administration resumed in fact on April 9th. Thus there existed an interregnum period of almost six months, during which Northern Transylvania was neither part of Hungary nor part of Romania, but was also not an independent state.

## GEOGRAPHY

Northern Transylvania is a 16,830 square mile area situated in the Carpathian Basin. The 1940 population was approximately 2.5 million, with about equal numbers of ethnic Hungarians and Romanians. In addition, there was a substantial German minority. Hungarians were generally predominant in the urban areas.




**The shaded areas of the map represent areas with predominantly Hungarian populations. The cities in which local issues appeared are outlined in red.**

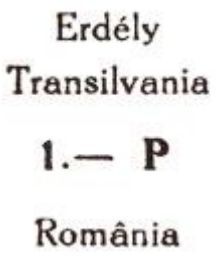
**http://www.jaypex.com/NT/odorhei.htm** **County Odorhei / Udvarhely***
**Odorhei / Székelyudvarhely**
* - (Current names: Harghita / Hargita)

December 23(?), 1944 (Dec. 15 & Dec. 30 in some sources).

On December 19, 1944 Géza Sipos, a local religion teacher and philatelist, was commissioned to prepare a series of surcharged stamps. Together with a police official, he gathered up the stamp stocks from six local tobacco shops (customary sellers of stamps) and delivered them to the Minerva printery, where the majority were overprinted on a hand-operated press in blocks of 20 (2 rows of 10). Incomplete blocks were pasted together to form printing "sheets".

A portion of the surcharged stamps were used to reimburse the tobacconists. In addition, the cost of overprinting (160 Pengő) was paid for with stamps. Géza Sipos received 3.3% of the value of the stamps (214.50 Pengő) as a commission (including most of the rarities), and several sets were presented to various officials as gifts. The remaining stamps were sold at the Odorhei post office.

**Overprinted in 4 lines**




**Issued Stamps**

| No. | Value | Issue | Color | Scott | Michel | Quantity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **—.50 P/1f** | 1943 Portraits/Crown | greenish black | 601 | 705 | 400 |
| 2 | **—.50 P/3f** | 1943 Portraits/Crown | ultramarine | 603 | 707 | 620 |
| 3 | **—.50 P/4f** | 1943 Portraits/Crown | **brown** | 604 | 708 | 1,248 |
| 4 | **1.— P/4f** | 1943 Portraits/Crown | **brown** | 604 | 708 | 900 |
| 5 | 1.— P/6f | 1943 Portraits/Crown | slate blue | 606 | 710 | 98 |
| 6 | **1.— P/10f** | 1943 Portraits/Crown | light brown | 608 | 712 | 278 |
| 7 | **1.— P/18f** | 1943 Portraits/Crown | dark gray | 610 | 739 | 1,720 |
| 7a | 1.— P/18f | inverted overprint | | | | 20 |
| 8 | **1.— P/20f** | 1943 Portraits/Crown | chestnut brown | 611 | 715 | 160 |
| 9 | **1.— P/30f** | 1944 St. Margaret | deep carmine | 620 | 753 | 800 |
| 10 | 2.— P/4f | 1944 Kossuth | yellow brown | 621 | 745 | 40 |
| 11 | **2.— P/30f** | 1944 St. Margaret | deep carmine | 620 | 753 | 400 |
| 12 | **2.— P/30f** | 1944 Famous Women | copper red | 627 | 756 | 189 |
| 13 | 2.— P/40f | 1943 Churches | gray black | 590 | 718 | 40 |
| 14 | 2.— P/1P | 1943 Portraits/Crown | green | 616 | 739 | 20 |

No. 7 with double overprint, listed in some references, does not exist.

**—.50 P** overprints (for post cards)

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**1.—  P** overprints (for letters)

**4.**

**6.**

**7.**

**8.**

**9.**

(No. 5, **1.— / 6 fillér**, is on CTO cover below)

**2.—  P**  overprints (for registered letters)

**10.**

**11.**

**12.**

**14.**

(No. 13, **2.— / 30 fillér** Churches, is on CTO cover below)

**Inverted Overprint**

**No. 7a**
Offset of (inverted) overprint on reverse

**Unissued Stamps**

| No. | Value | Issue | Color | Scott | Michel | Quantity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | —.50P/5f | 1943 Portraits/Crown | vermilion | 605 | 709 | 10 |
| II | 1.—P/2f | 1943 Portraits/Crown | red orange | 602 | 706 | 2 |
| III | 1.—P/10f | 1942 Crown | olive brown | 583 | 670 | 2 |
| IV | —.50P/4f | 1944 Kossuth | yellow brown | 621 | 745 | 6 |

No. IV only exists affixed to postal stationery (q.v.) and is only known cancelled

**I.**

**Plate Reconstruction (block of 20) - 1.— P overprint**

**1-2 3 4-5**

**11-12** **13** **14-15**

**6** **7** **8** **9** **10**

**16** **17** **18** **19** **20**

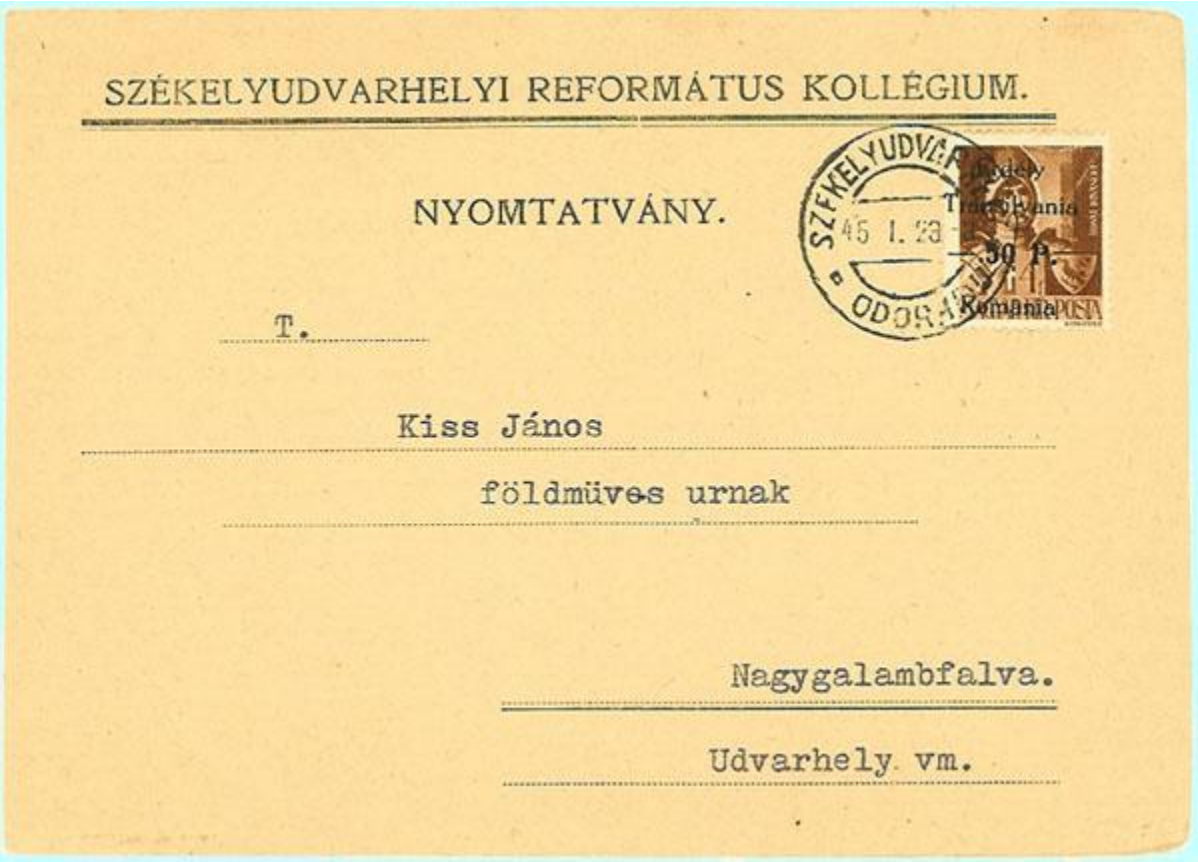
**Provisional Cancellation**

A re-engraving of an old Hungarian cancel from Homoródfürdő. First used on Dec. 30, 1944. The cost of preparing the cancel (75 Pengő) was also paid with stamps.

**Covers**

**Nos. 1-9 and 11-13 CTO on Jan. 4, 1945 card**

**Post card with —.50P/1f (no. 1) single franking, Jan. 1, 1945 to Válaszut with Jan. 7 arrival cancel**
**From Ferenc Sipos**




**Tuition reminder card with —.50 P/4f (no. 3), Jan. 23, 1945 to Nagygalambfalva From Géza Sipos.**

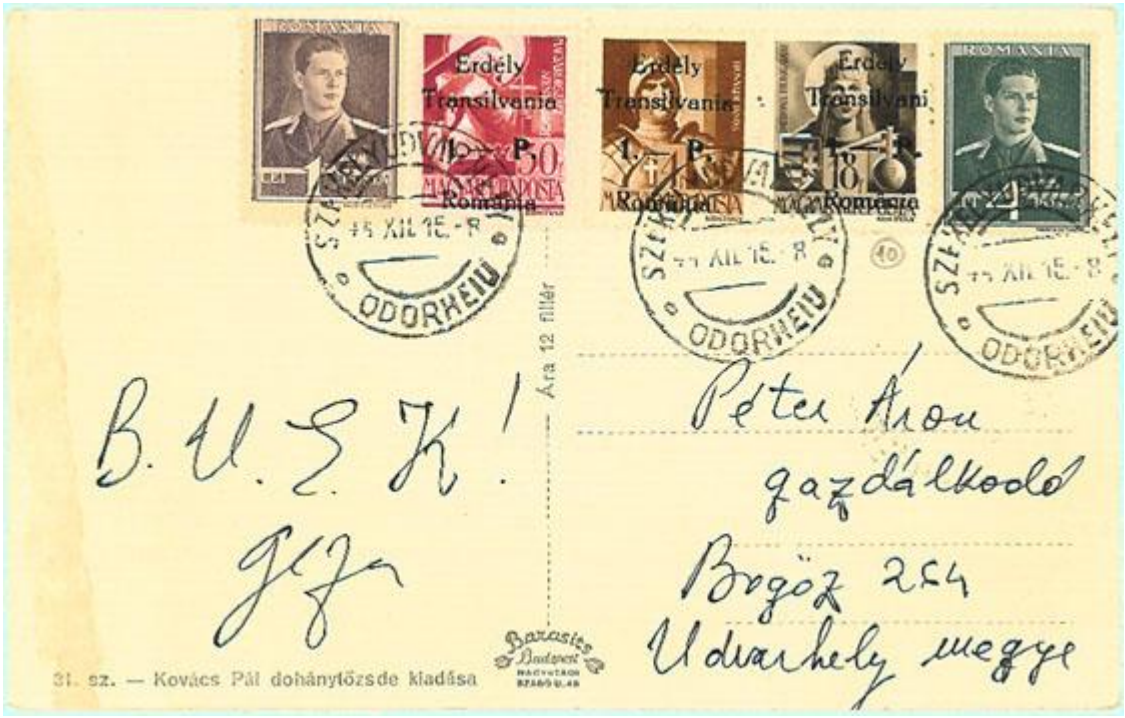
**Tuition reminder card of the Reform Collegium with 1.— P/4f (no. 4), Jan. 23, 1945 to Zetelaka (overfranked)**
**From Géza Sipos.**

**Feb. 18, 1945 cover to Felsösófalva with 1.— P/18f (no. 7)**

**Local registered cover with 2.—P/30f (no. 12), mixed franking with 16 Lei Romanian stamp, Feb. 4, 1945**
**No return address (handwriting of Géza Sipos); Romanian stamp is unnecessary**

**Feb. 8, 1945 cover to Felsősófalva with —.50 P/4f (no. 3), no return address**
**Romanian stamp (over)pays part of the 1 Pengő rate (1 Pengő = 10 Lei)**

**Fraudulent Covers**



**Two picture post cards, both dated Dec. 15, 1944. Only two problems -**
**The overprinted stamps were issued Dec. 23 and the cancellation was first used on Dec. 30**

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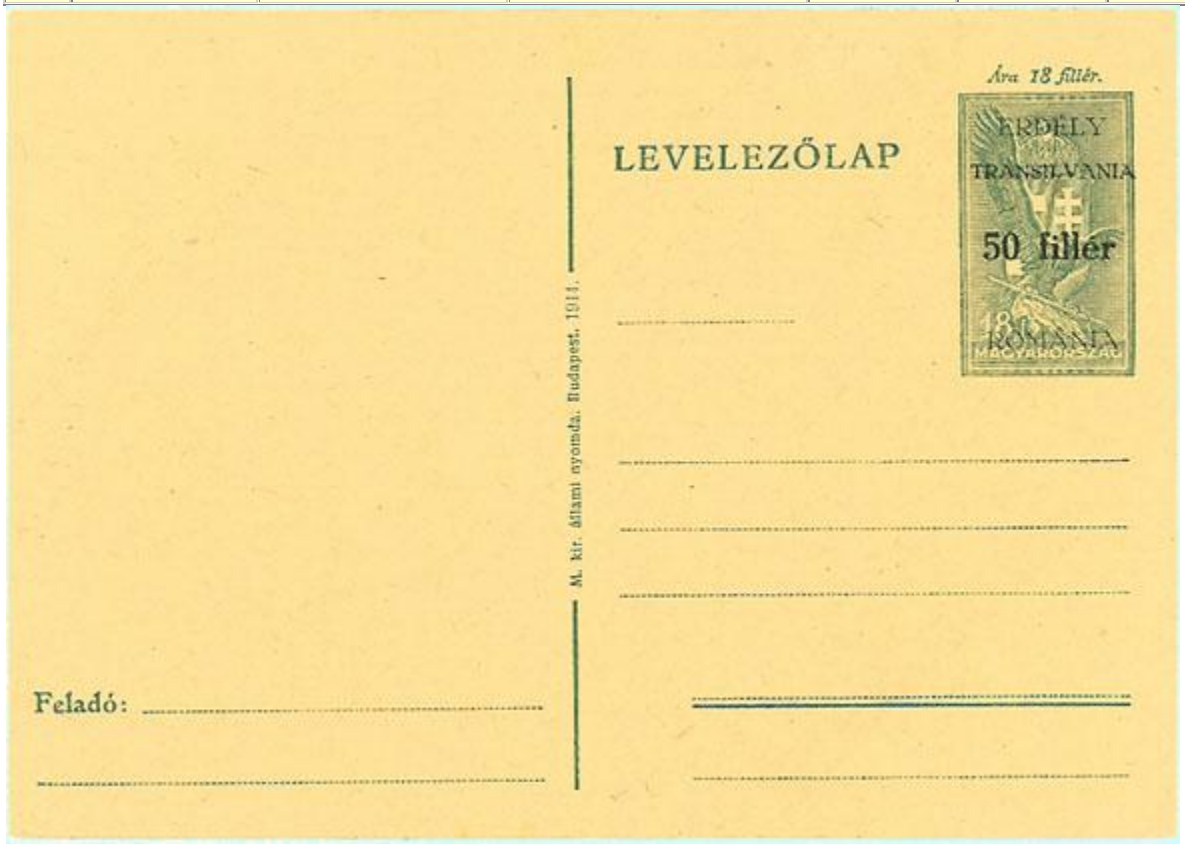
**Postal Cards**

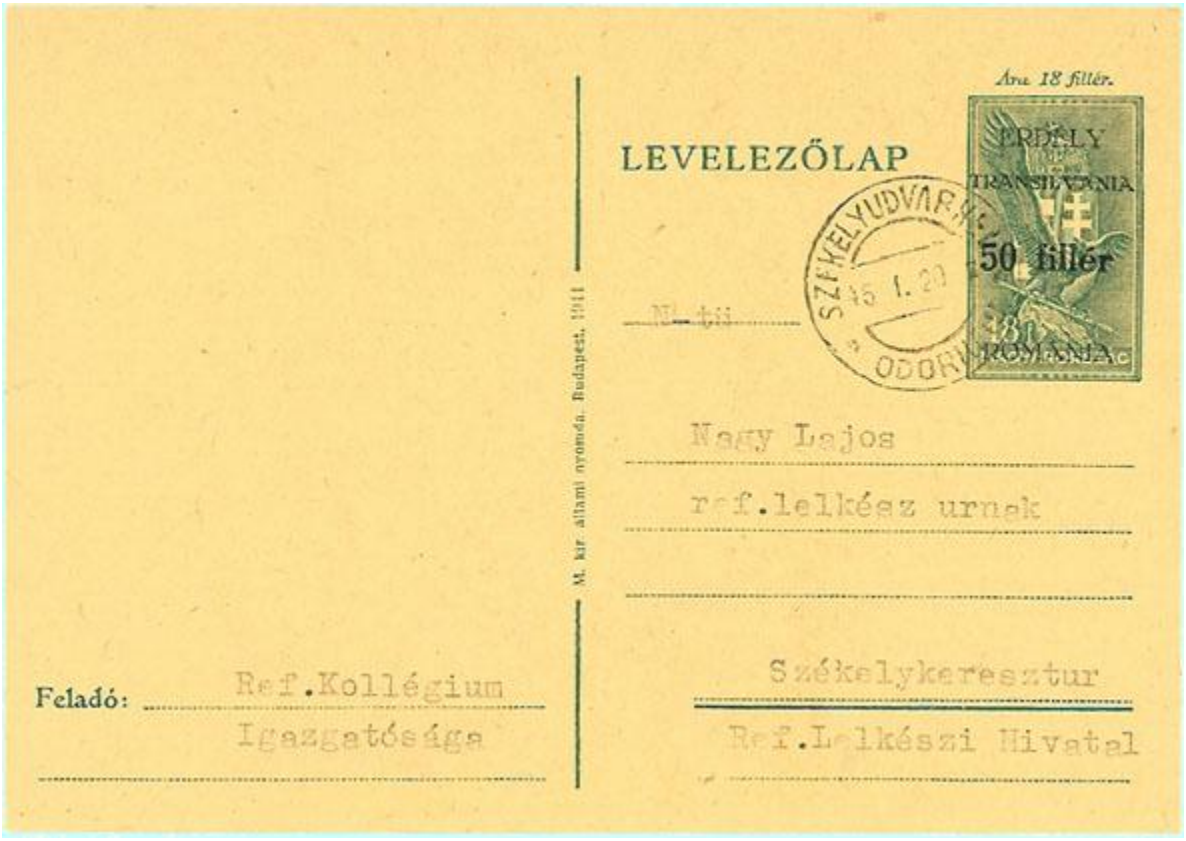
A total of 2,590 18 fillér Hungarian postal cards were gathered up

from the tobacco shops and delivered to the printery. Four of the cards were deemed unsuitable for overprinting, and six cards had a 4 fillér Kossuth stamp (no. IV) pasted over the stamp indicia.

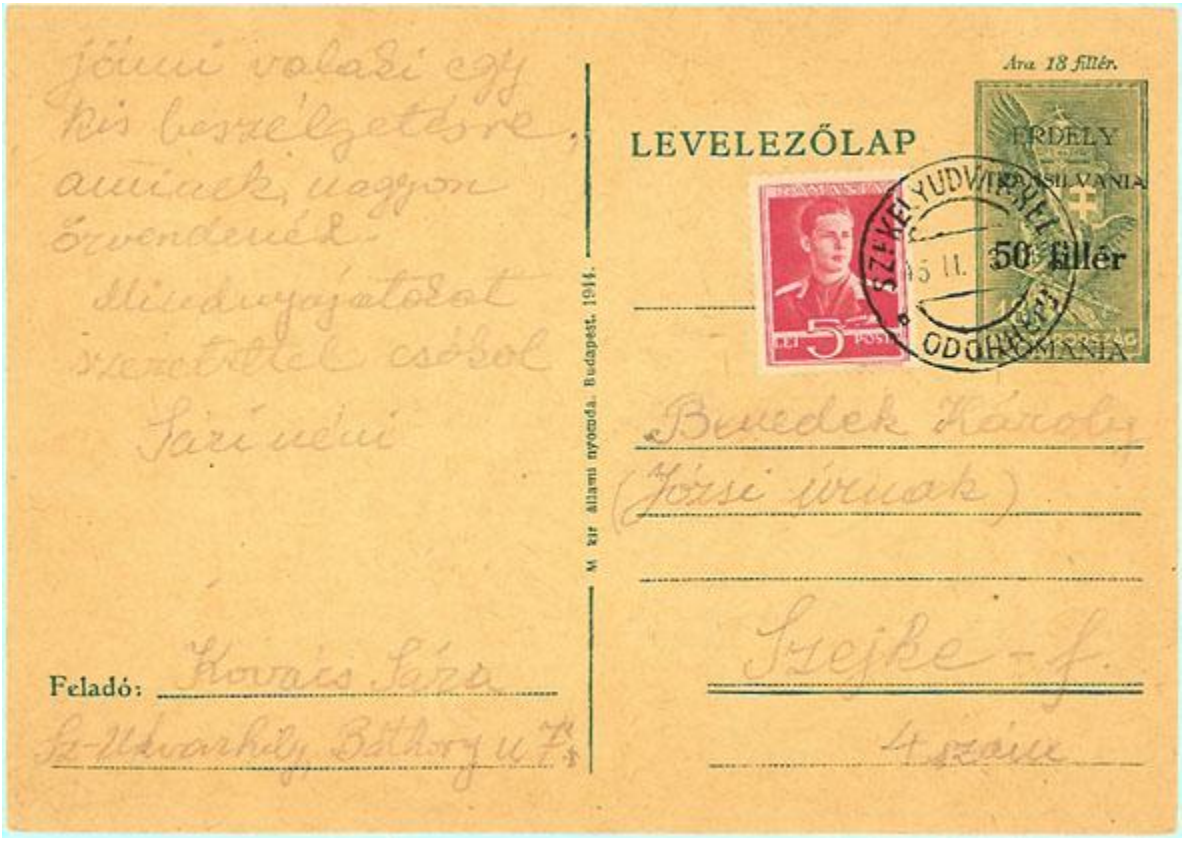
| No. | Value | Issue | Description | | Michel | Quantity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PC1 | 50 fillér/18f | 1943-44 Turul | dark green | | P 112 | 2,580 |



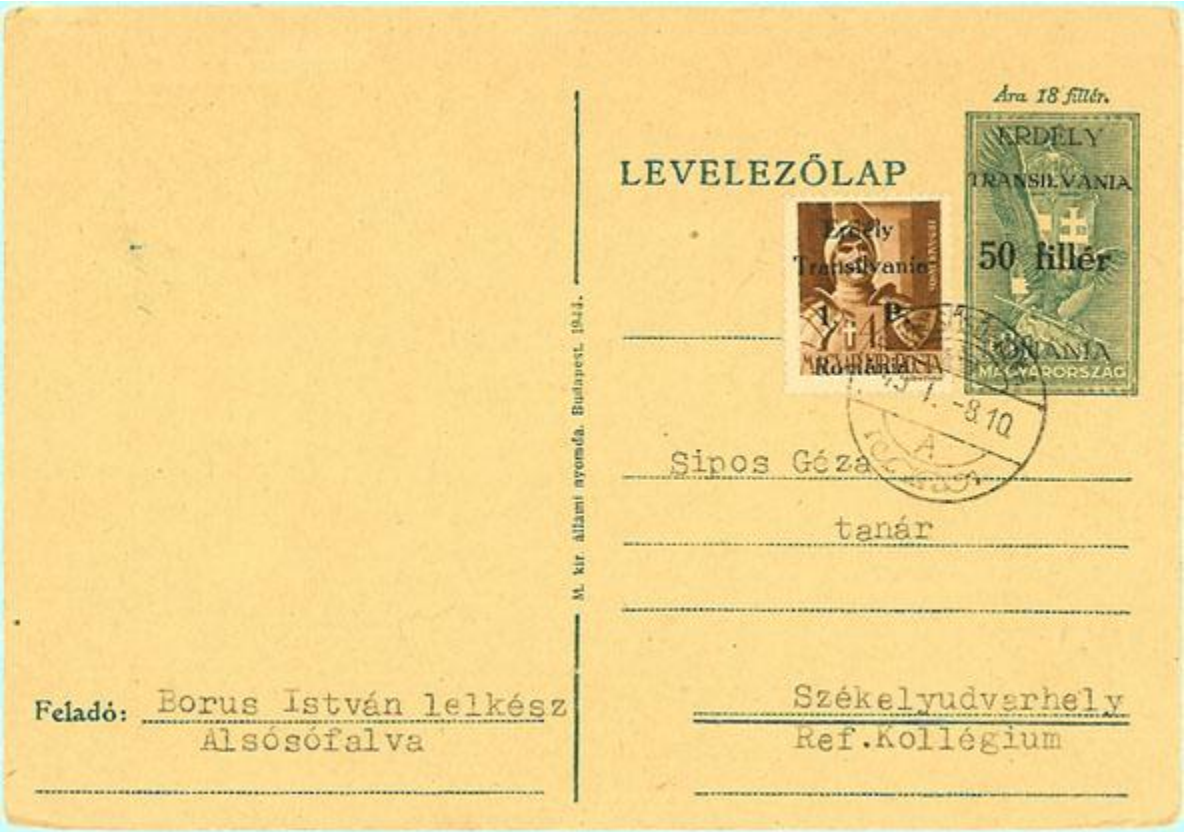

**Used Postal Stationery**




**Jan. 15, 1945 - to Székelykeresztur**




**Card addressed to "Szejke-f" (Szejkefürdő?), Feb. 3, 1945.**
**Additional 5 Lei Romanian stamp unnecessary**




**Local card addressed to Géza Sipos, Jan. 8, 1945**
**Additional franking of —.50P/4f (no. 3) unnecessary**

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**Cash Franking**

Allegedly, for 3 to 4 weeks prior to the issuance of the overprinted stamps, cash franking or partial cash franking was employed by the Odorhei post office. To facilitate this, two round rubber handstamps were prepared with the wording:

**Északerdély**
**1P** or **2P**
**SZÉKELYUDVARHELY**
**România**

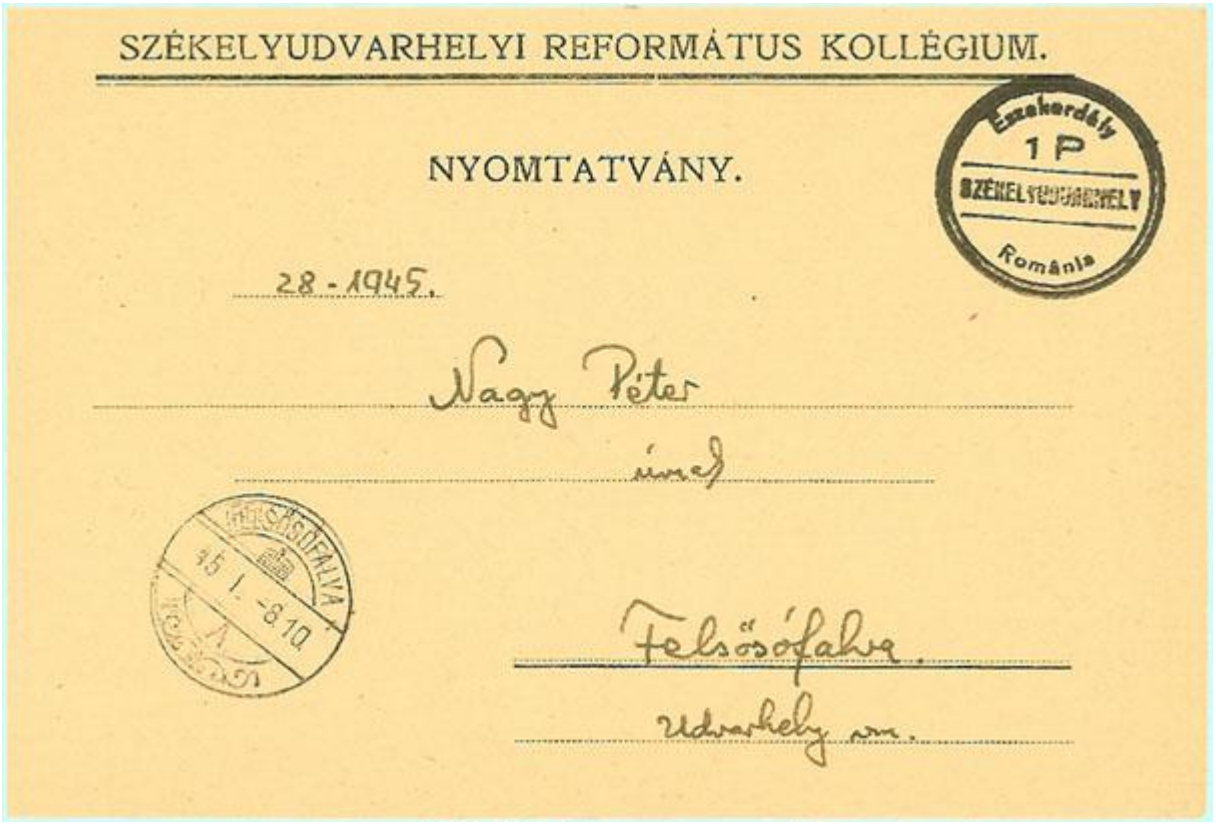
Cards and letters were accepted with partial franking; the balance was paid in cash. The canceling ink used during this period was grayish black.

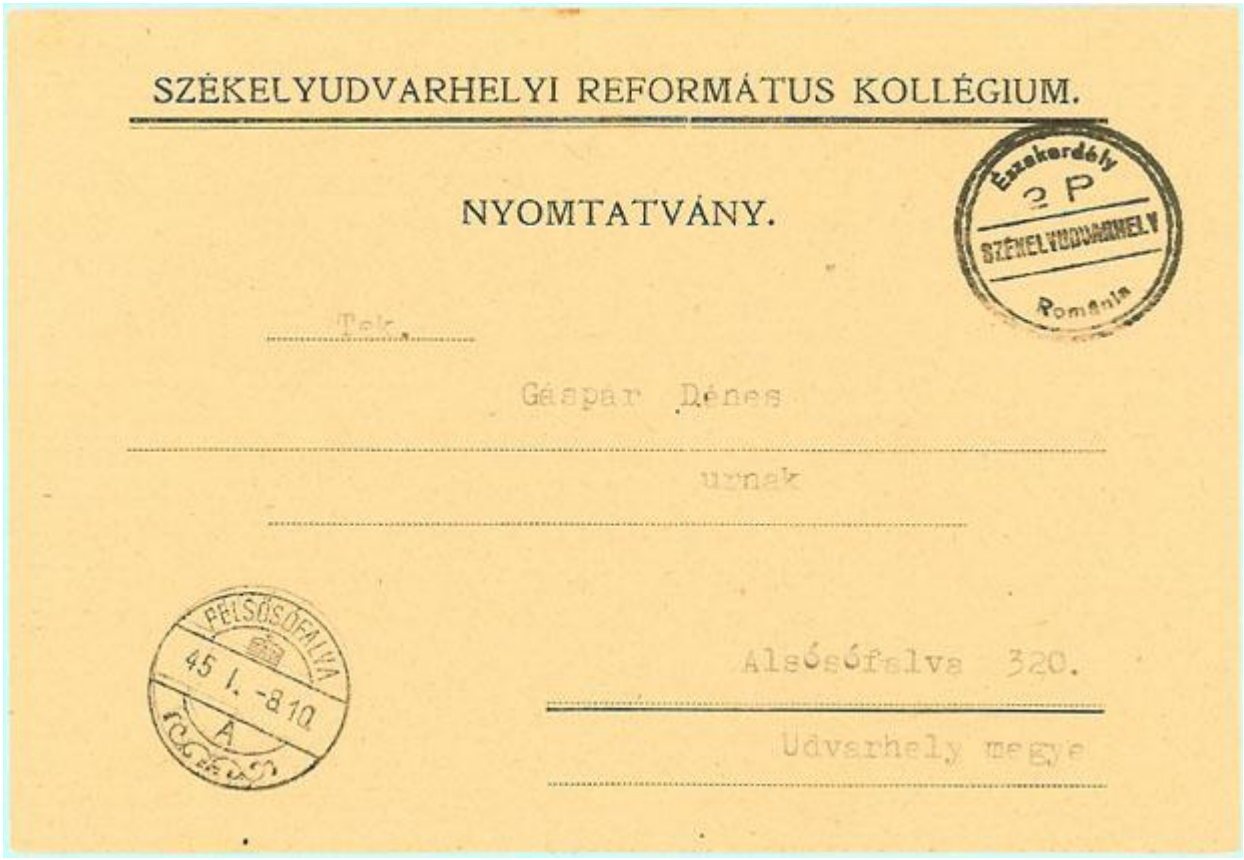
The stated reason for discontinuing this practice was that the Romanian transit post office at Sighişoara refused to forward consignments which did not bear a dated

cancellation. This situation was also supposedly a deciding factor in the decision to produce the overprints and provisional cancel.
Numerous examples exist of the use of these cash franking cancels after the overprinted stamps and the provisional cancel became available. Unfortunately, most if not all are philatelic, often overfranked. The canceling ink used during this period was black, as opposed to grayish black.

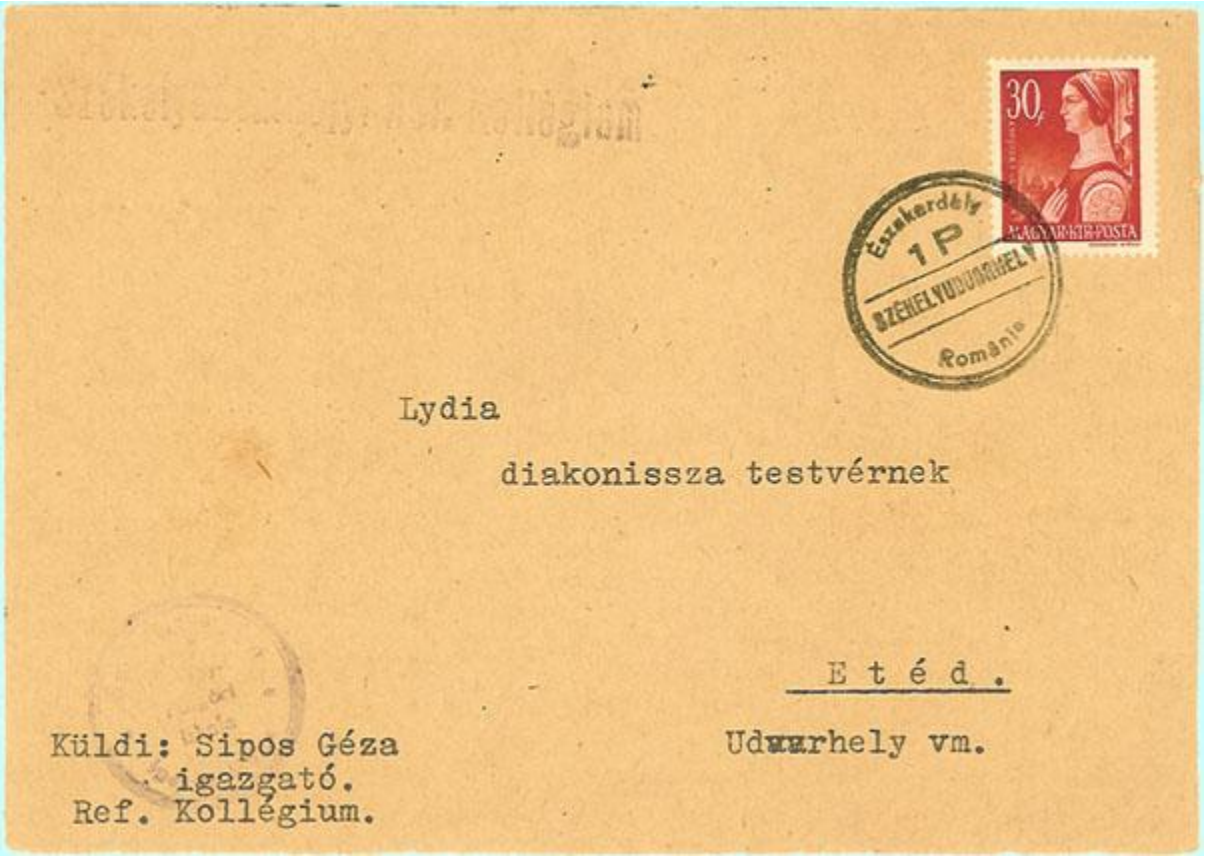
| No. | Value | Description |
|---|---|---|
| H1 | 1P | grayish black, later black (mostly philatelic) |
| H2 | 2P | grayish black, later black (mostly philatelic) |

**Cash Franking Covers**



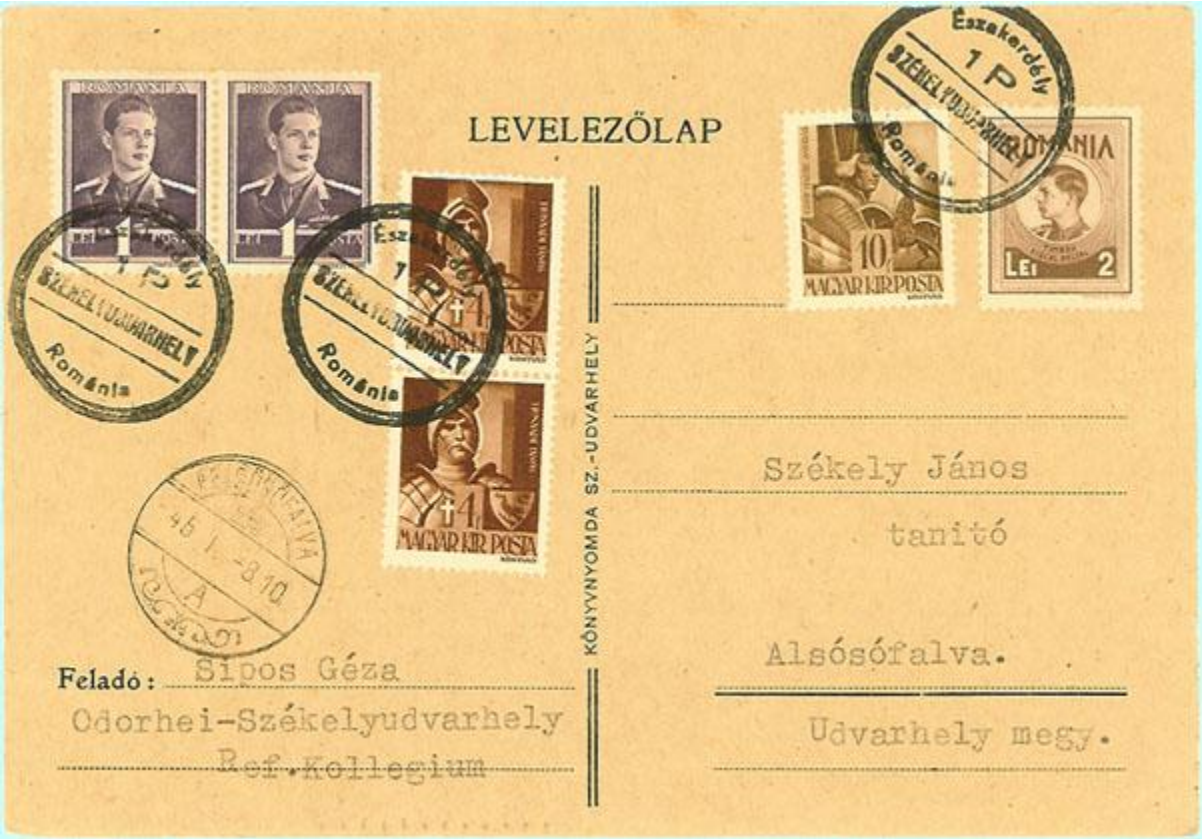



**Pair of cards dated Jan. 8, 1945 (final reminders to pay child's tuition) with 1P and 2P cash franking marks (required franking is 1P)**



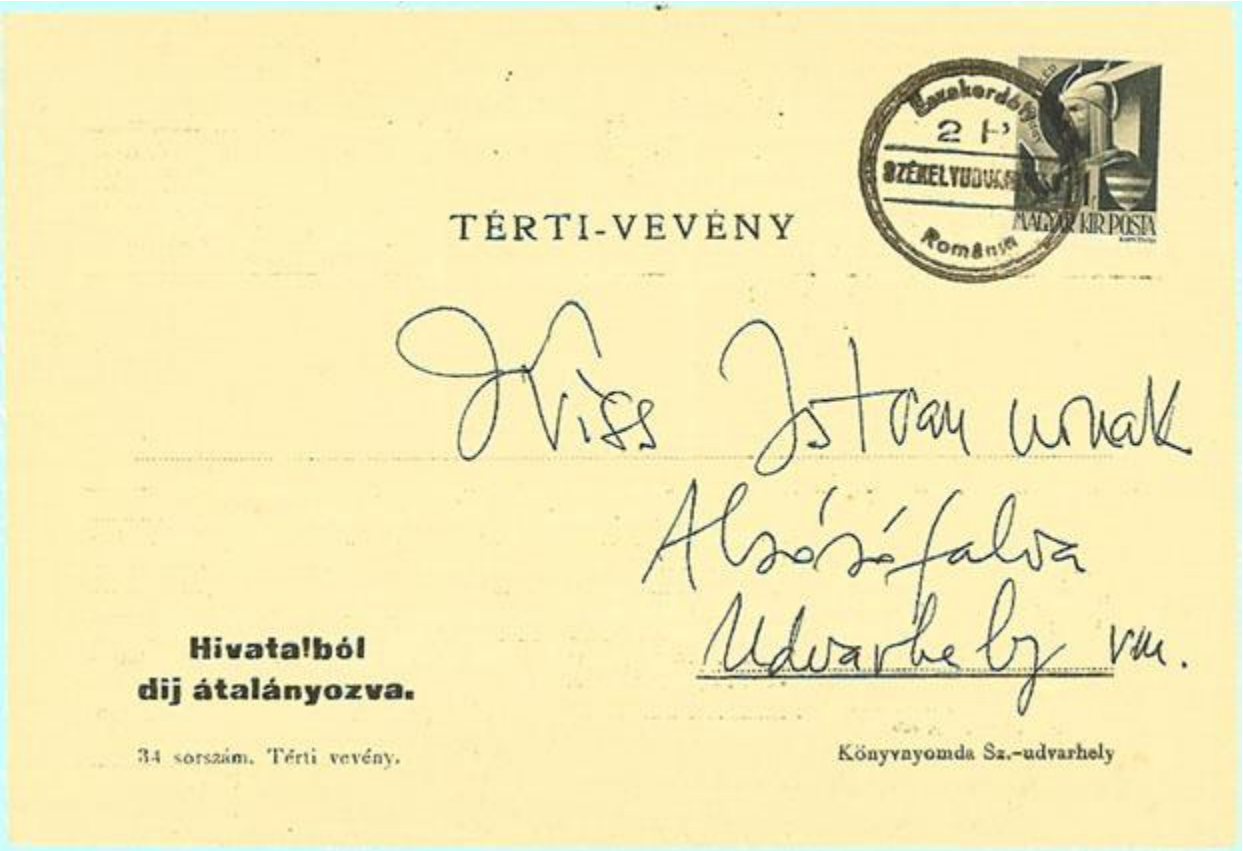

**1P handstamp on card from Géza Sipos to his sister Lydia in Atid**
**Message dated Dec. 20, 1944 (prior to the issuance of stamps)**

**1P handstamp on letter to Marosvásárhely (Târgu-Mureş);**
**Jan. 10, 1945 provisional arrival postmark on front**



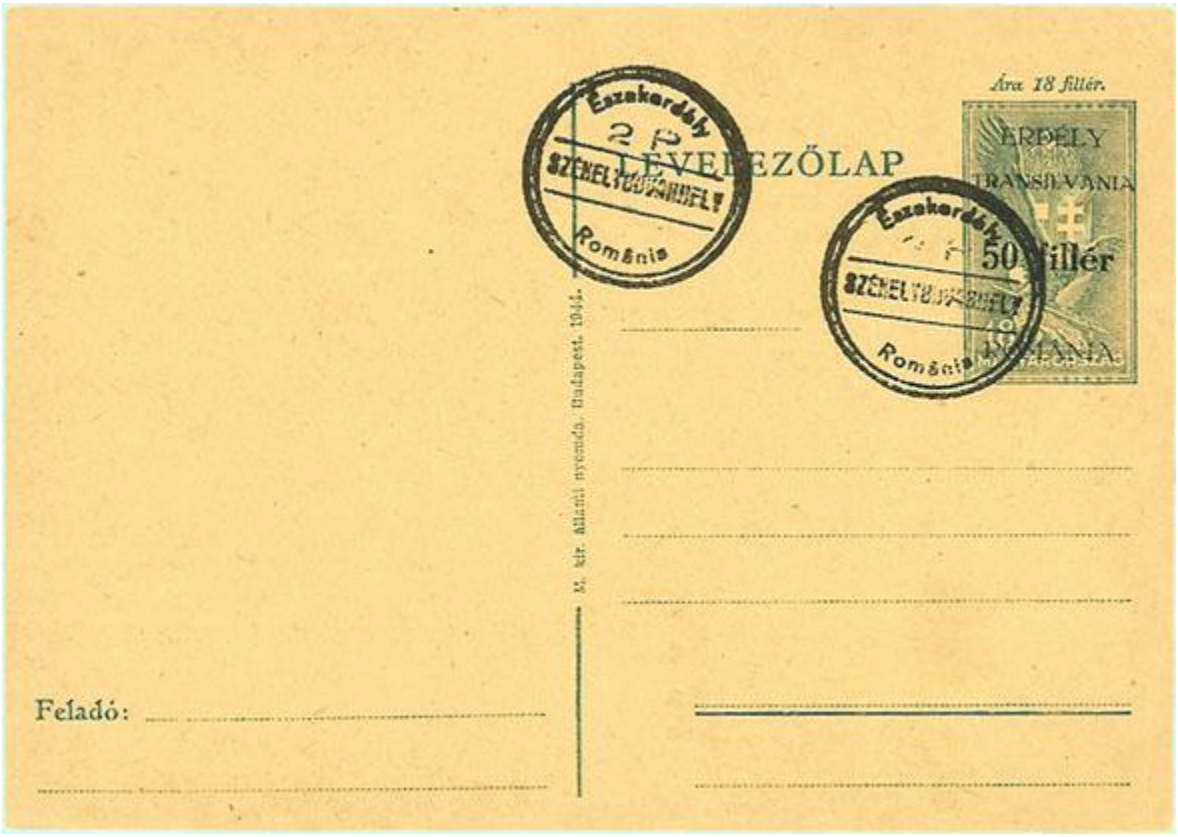

**1P handstamp on card from Géza Sipos dated Jan. 8, 1945;**
**with unoverprinted Hungarian and Romanian stamps**

**1P handstamp CTO on Romanian military postal card**




**2P handstamp CTO on Acknowledgement of Receipt card**

**2P handstamp on picture post card to Válaszút (Răscruci)**
**April 23, 1945 - extremely late (philatelic) usage**




**Two CTO strikes of 2P handstamp on Odorhei postal card**

http://www.jaypex.com/NT/t-mures.htm

**Târgu-Mureş / Marosvásárhely** **County Mureş / Maros**

November 1944 (earliest known use Nov. 20)

Romanian postal personnel entered Târgu-Mureş in October 1944, but were ordered to leave after a few days by the Soviet authorities. The Romanian postage stamps which they brought with them were left behind, and the local post office used a portion of this supply to prepare the Târgu-Mureş local issue. The issue was quickly sold out and was used mostly on philatelic covers. Subsequently, normal unoverprinted Romanian stamps were used for postage.

Two line bilingual overprint
**ERDÉLY / TRANSYLVANIA**

ERDÉLY
TRANSILVANIA

| | **Postage Stamps** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **No.** | **Value** | **Issue** | **Color** | **Scott** | **Michel** | **Quantity** |
| 1 | 1 leu | 1944-45 King | dark violet | 537 | 799 | <="" td="" |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Michael | | | | align="right" width="12%"> 450 |
| 2 | 2 lei | 1944-45 King Michael | red orange | 538 | 800 | <="" td="" align="right" width="12%"> 450 |
| 3 | 5 lei | 1944-45 King Michael | rose carmine | 543 | 805 | <="" td="" align="right" width="12%"> 450 |
| 4 | 10 lei | 1944-45 King Michael | deep magenta | 546 | 808 | <="" td="" align="right" width="12%"> 450 |
| 5 | 16 lei | 1944-45 King Michael | deep blue | 550 | 812 | <="" td="" align="right" width="12%"> 450 |
| 6 | 20 lei | 1944-45 King Michael | brown | 551 | 813 | <="" td="" align="right" width="12%"> 450++ |
| 7 | 1 leu | 1943-44 Postal Tax | lilac rose | RA26 | Z 30 | <="" td="" align="right" width="12%"> 450 |
| 8 | 2 lei | 1943-44 Postal Tax | brown | RA27 | Z 31 | <="" td="" align="right" width="12%"> 450 |

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**4.**

**5.**

**6.**

**7.**

**8.**

The literature mentions that there were two editions.

**Edition I:** Overprint through king's face (200 sets)
**Edition II:** Overprint clear of king's face (250 sets)
(Some stamps, especially no. 6, were printed in larger quantities.)

Allegedly, Edition II was printed on Nov. 26, 1944 because Romanian post offices would not forward covers with the king's portrait defaced. This contention is contradicted both by the existence of covers with Edition I stamps successfully delivered into Romania, and by covers with Edition II stamps cancelled prior to Nov. 26.

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Overprint Varieties

| Due to the lack of complete sheets or large multiples, this issue has not been completely plated. The following major typographical varieties are known: | | |
|---|---|---|
| a. | TRANSYLV**A**NI**A** (2 small A's) | (positions 4, 5, 39, 59, 79, 89) |
| b. | TR**A**NSYLV**A**NI**A** (3 small A's) | (positions 60, 70, 80, 90) |
| c. | TRANSYL**A**ANIA | (positions 25, 27) |
| d. | T**S**ANSYLVANIA | (position 35) |
| e. | TRANSYL**Y**ANIA | (position 42) |
| f. | TRANSYLV**N**NIA | (position unknown) |

TRANSYL**A**ANIA

T**S**ANSYLVANIA

TRANSYLV**N**NIA

TRANSYL**Y**ANIA

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Trial Printings

| No. | Value | Color | Scott | Michel | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | 50 bani | dark green | 536 | 798 | |
| II | 3 lei | red brown | 539 | 801 | |
| III | 4.50 lei | dark brown, **ERDÉLY / TRANSYLVANIA** | 542 | 804 | |
| IIIA | 4.50 lei | dark brown. **TRANSYLVANIA / ERDÉLY** | 542 | 804 | |
| IV | 50 lei | olive black | 553 | 816 | |

**I.** **II.** **III.** **IIIA.** **IV.**

---

Covers with Overprinted Stamps

**Nov. 22, 1944 registered philatelic cover with complete set of 8**
**2 Lei orange (2nd from left) is** TRANSYLVANI**A variety (3 small A's)**
**20 Lei brown (bottom left) and 1 Leu rose (far right) are** TRANSYLVANI**A varieties (2 small A's)**

**Nov. 23, 1944 registered cover**
**16 Lei blue (2nd from left) is** TRANSYLVANI**A variety (3 small A's)**

**Nov. 23, 1944 registered cover**

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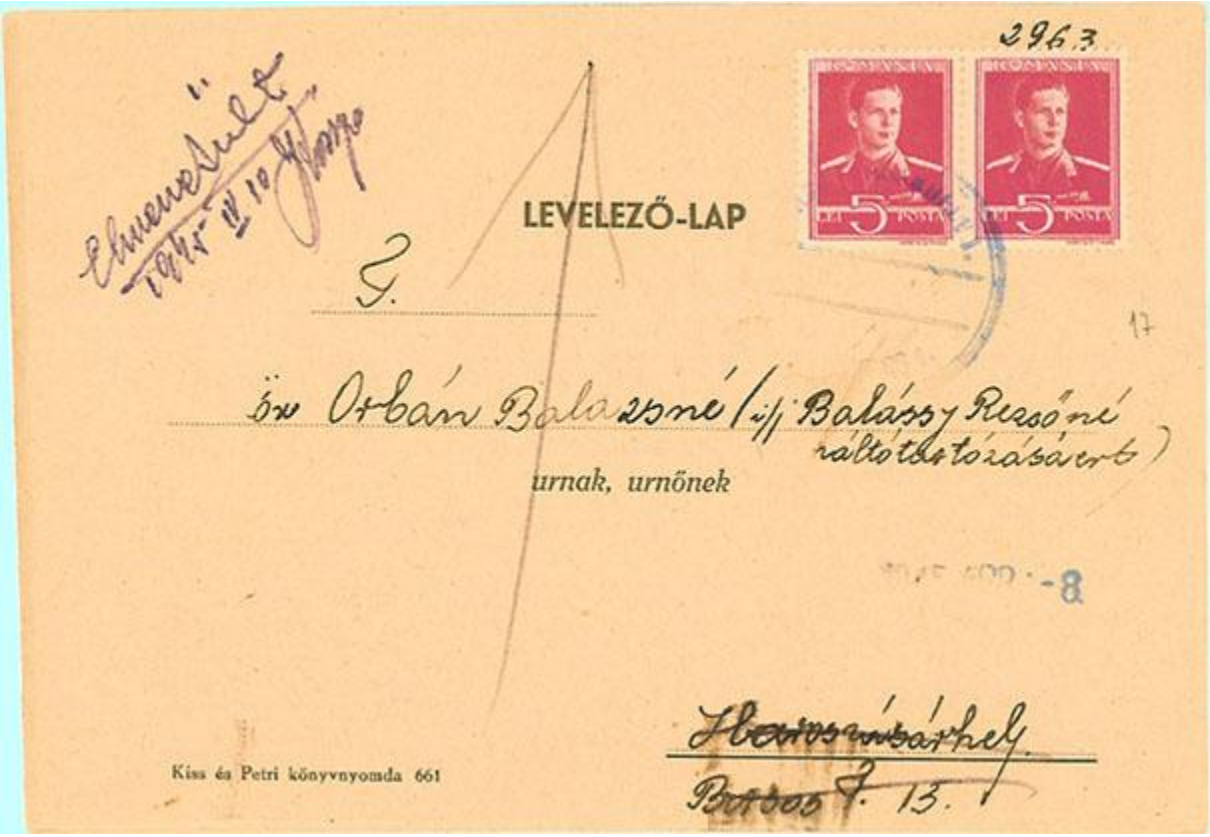
Covers with Unoverprinted Stamps

**Post card with 3, 16 Lei plus 1 Leu postal tax stamp**
**Bilingual provisional cancel with "1945 JAN 27" datestamp**

**Post card with 3, 16 Lei plus 1 Leu postal tax stamp**
**Bilingual provisional cancel with "1945 JAN 27" datestamp**
**Returned to sender with "Elköltözött / Parti" (moved) label**



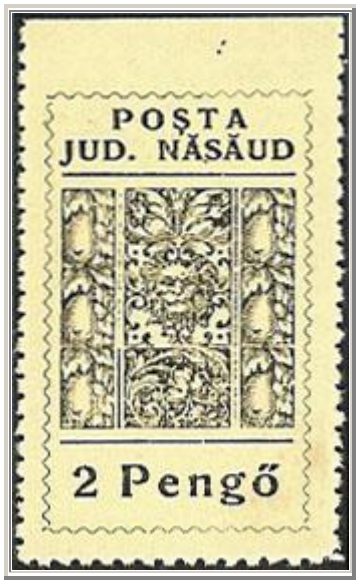

**Post card with pair of 5 Lei stamps**
**Bilingual provisional cancel with "1945 APR -8" datestamp**
**Returned to sender with penciled notation "Elmenesült" (departed)**

http://www.jaypex.com/NT/bistrita.htm
**Bistrița / Beszterce** **County Năsăud / Naszód**

November(?) 1944
**Postage Stamp**

Printed in sheets of 8, perforated 11½ with top margin imperforate. 1,025 (possibly 1,200) sheets printed. Surplus stocks were allegedly destroyed on March 6, 1945

| No. | Value | Description | Quantity |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 Pengő | black, paper varies from cream to yellowish | 8,200 |
| 1a | | variety: spot in **n** of **Pengő** | |
| | | sheet of 8 | |
| | | ditto, with variety 1a in position 8 | |

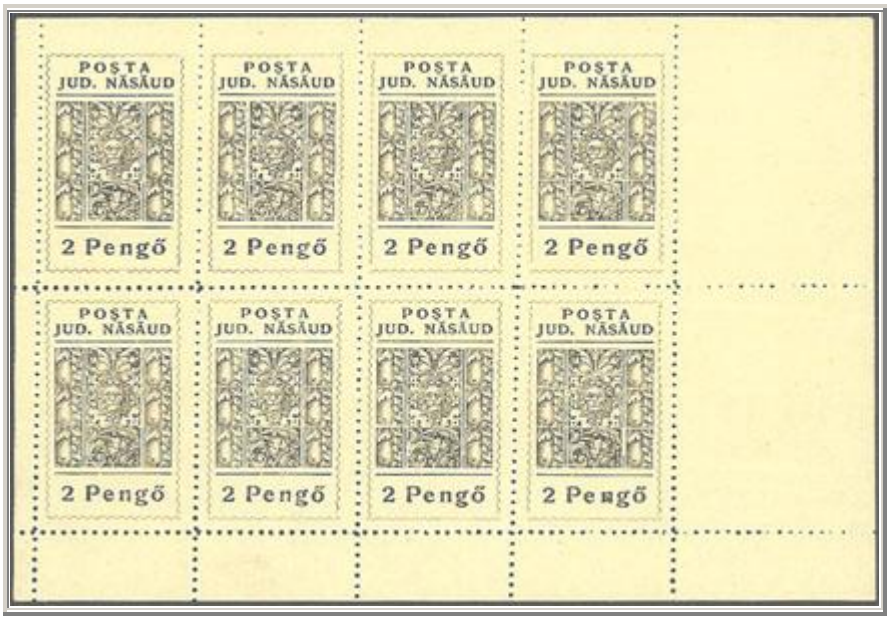


one of the few
known used copies

**JUD.** is the abbreviation for **JUDEȚUL**, the Romanian word for "County"

Sheets of 8

**Normal sheet** (75 dpi)




**Error sheet** (75 dpi)

**Spot in n (position 8)**

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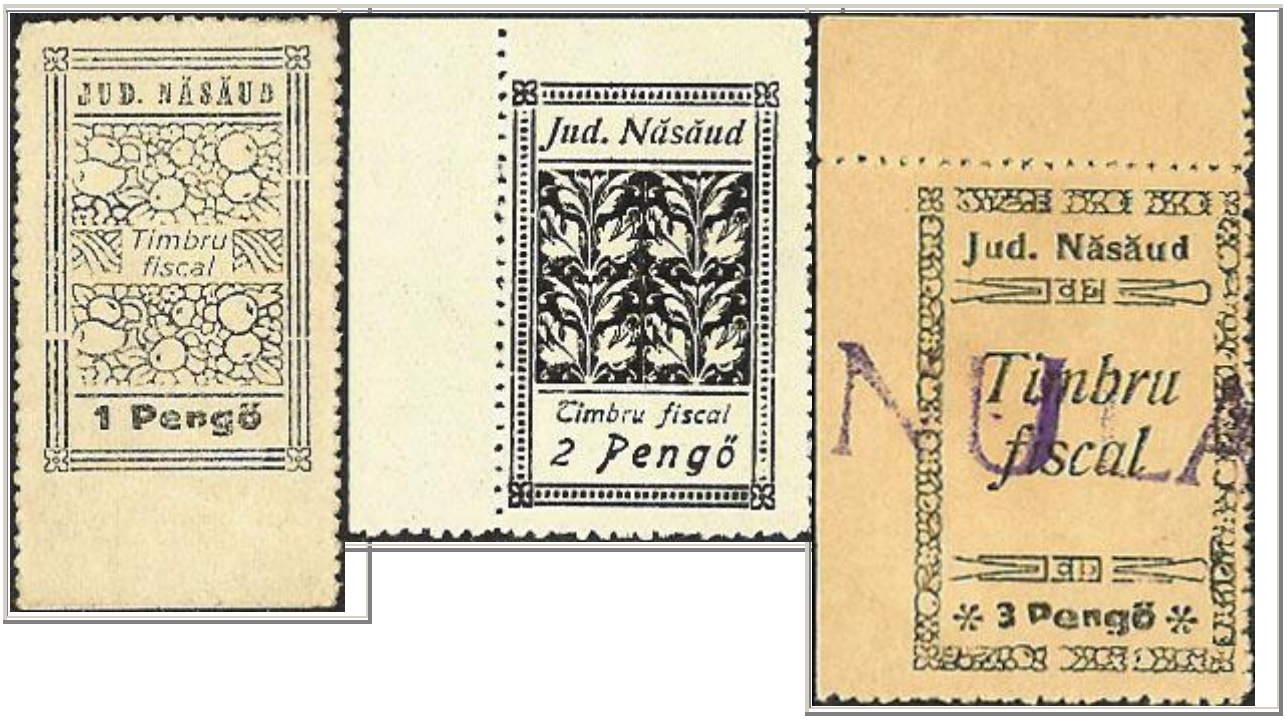
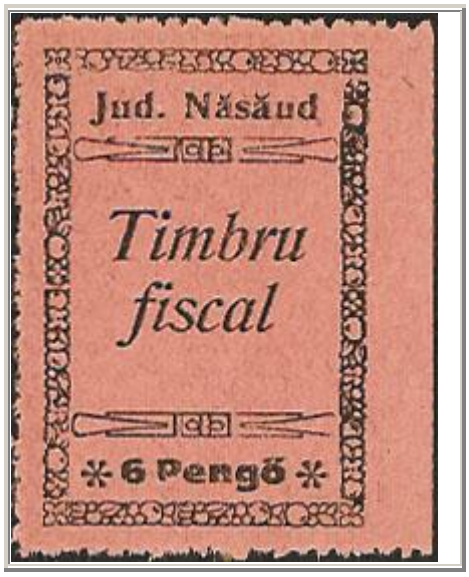
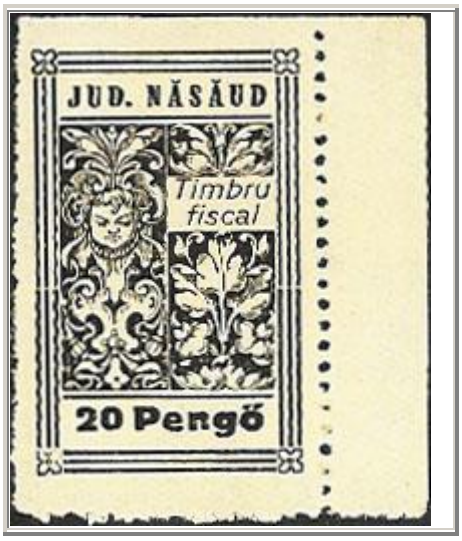
**Revenue Stamps**

| No. | Value | Description |
|---|---|---|
| R1 | 1 Pengő | black on light grey paper |
| R2 | 2 Pengő | black on white paper |
| R3 | 3 Pengő | black on dark gray paper |
| R4 | 6 Pengő | black on lilac |
| R5 | 20 Pengő | black on white paper |


JUD. NĂSĂUD
Timbru fiscal
1 Pengő
Jud. Năsăud
Timbru fiscal
2 Pengő
Jud. Năsăud
Timbru fiscal
* 3 Pengő *


Jud. Năsăud
Timbru fiscal
* 6 Pengő *


JUD. NĂSĂUD
Timbru fiscal
20 Pengő

**20 Pengő sheet of ten, top & bottom rows tête-bêche** (75 dpi)

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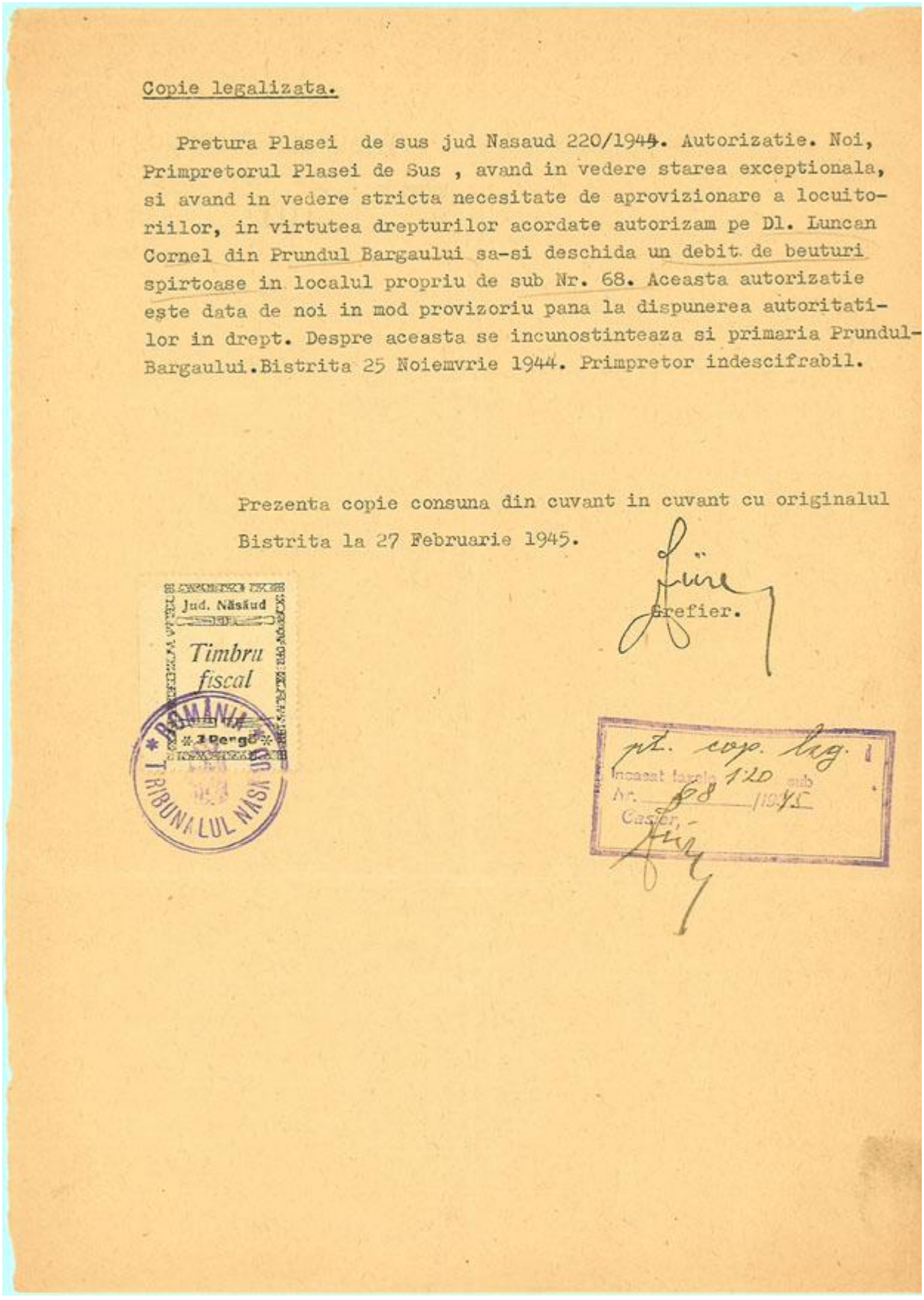
**Revenue Documents**



Copie legalizata.

Pretura Plasei de sus jud Nasaud 220/1945. Autorizatie. Noi, Primpretorul Plasei de Sus , avand in vedere starea exceptionala, si avand in vedere stricta necesitate de aprovizionare a locuitoriilor, in virtutea drepturilor acordate autorizam pe Dl. Luncan Cornel din Prundul Bargaului sa-si deschida un debit de beuturi spirtoase in localul propriu de sub Nr. 68. Aceasta autorizatie este data de noi in mod provizoriu pana la dispunerea autoritatilor in drept. Despre aceasta se incunostinteaza si primaria Prundul-Bargaului.Bistrita 25 Noiemvrie 1944. Primpretor indescifrabil.

Prezenta copie consuna din cuvant in cuvant cu originalul

Bistrita la 27 Februarie 1945.

Grefier.

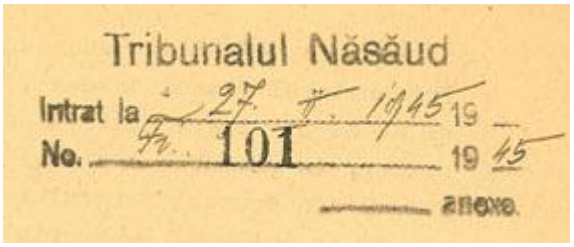
Jud. Năsăud
Timbru fiscal
ROMÂNIA
3 Pengő
TRIBUNALUL NASAUD

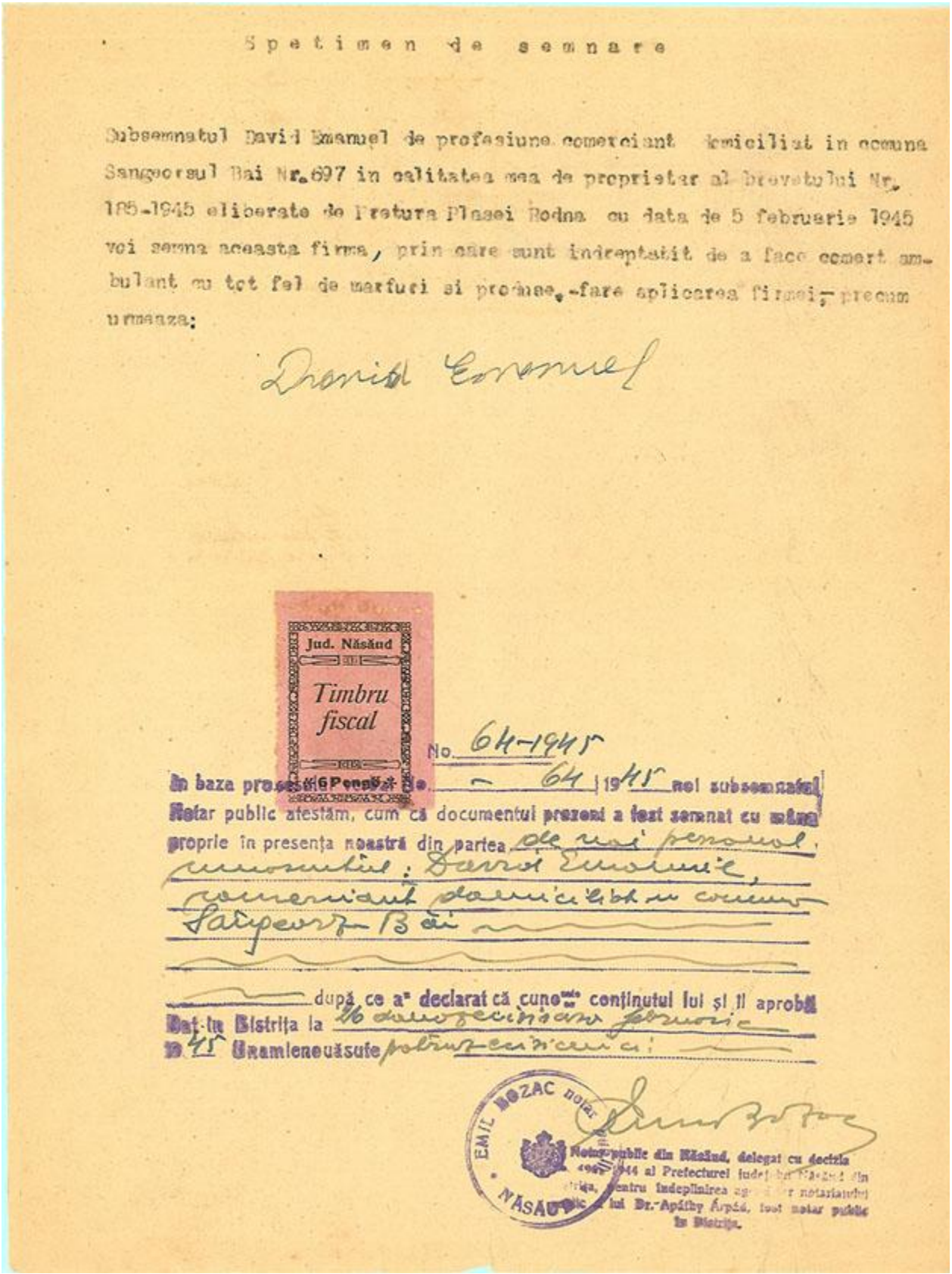
pt. copie leg.
Incasat taxele 120 sub
Nr. 68 1945
Casier,

**3 Pengő on court document** (75 dpi)

**on reverse:**

**on reverse:**
(75 dpi)





Spetimen de semnare

Subsemnatul David Emanuel de profesiune comerciant domiciliat in comuna Sangeorgiul Bai Nr.697 in calitatea mea de proprietar al brevetului Nr. 185-1945 eliberate de Pretura Plasei Rodna cu data de 5 februarie 1945 voi semna aceasta firma, prin care sunt indreptatit de a face comert ambulant cu tot fel de marfuri si produse,-fara aplicarea firmei,-precum urmeaza:

David Emanuel

Jud. Năsăud
Timbru fiscal
6 Pengő

No. 64-1945

In baza procesului verbal No. - 64 | 1945 noi subsemnatul Notar public atestăm, cum că documentul prezent a fost semnat cu mâna proprie în prezența noastră din partea de mai' personal cunoscutul: David Emanuel, comerciant domiciliat în comuna Salva-Băi

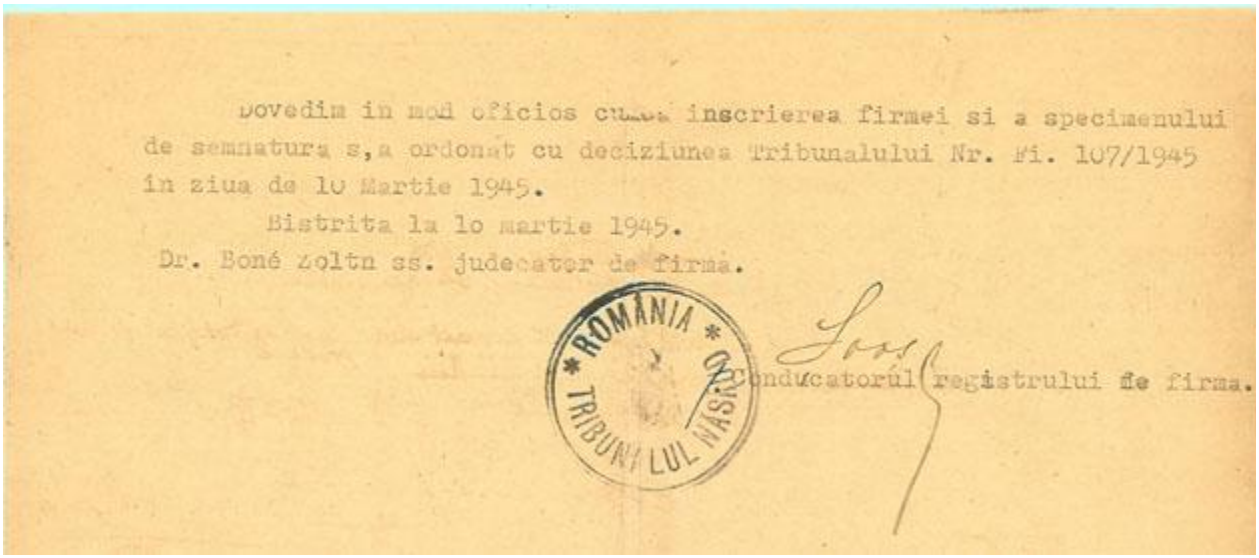
după ce a declarat că cunoaște conținutul lui și îl aprobă

Dat în Bistrița la 16 decembrie 1945 Anul

EMIL MOZAC notar
NĂSĂUD

Notar public din Năsăud, delegat cu dovada [illegible] al Prefecturei [illegible] pentru îndeplinirea [illegible] notariatului [illegible] Dr. Apáthy Árpád, fost notar public în Bistrița.

**6 Pengő on notarized document** (75 dpi)



Dovedim in mod oficios cu... inscrierea firmei si a specimenului de semnatura s,a ordonat cu deciziunea Tribunalului Nr. Fi. 107/1945 in ziua de 10 Martie 1945.

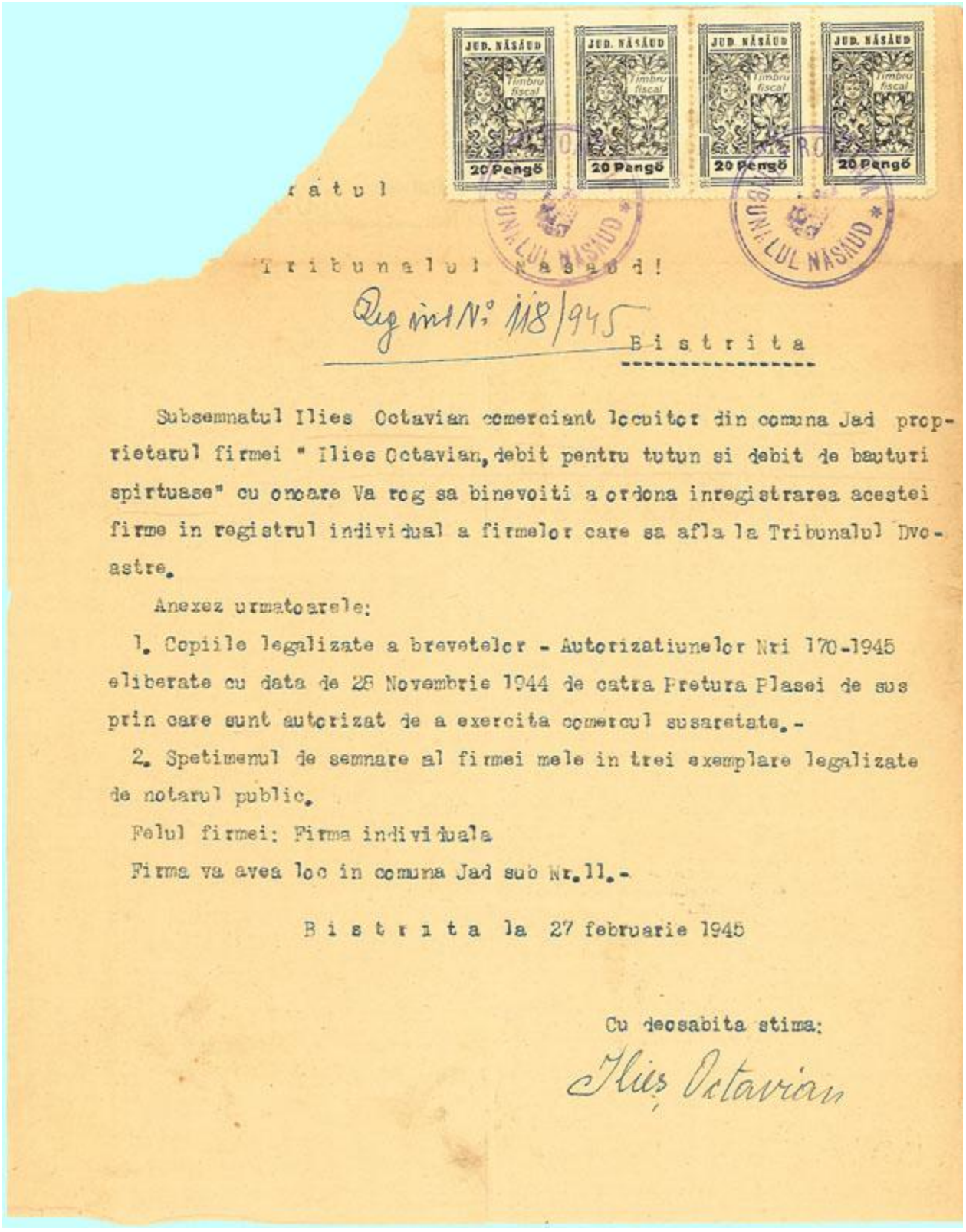
Bistrita la 10 martie 1945.

Dr. Boné Zoltn ss. judecator de firma.

ROMÂNIA * TRIBUNALUL MUR.

Conducatorul registrului de firma.

**on reverse** (75 dpi)




ratul

Tribunalul Năsăud!

Reg. int. Nr. 118/945 Bistrita

Subsemnatul Ilies Octavian comerciant locuitor din comuna Jad proprietarul firmei " Ilies Octavian, debit pentru tutun si debit de bauturi spirtuase" cu onoare Va rog sa binevoiti a ordona inregistrarea acestei firme in registrul individual a firmelor care sa afla la Tribunalul Dvoastre.

Anexez urmatoarele:

1. Copiile legalizate a brevetelor - Autorizatiunelor Nri 170-1945 eliberate cu data de 28 Novembrie 1944 de catra Pretura Plasei de sus prin care sunt autorizat de a exercita comercul susaretate.-

2. Spetimenul de semnare al firmei mele in trei exemplare legalizate de notarul public.

Felul firmei: Firma individuala

Firma va avea loc in comuna Jad sub Nr. 11.-

Bistrita la 27 februarie 1945

Cu deosabita stima:

Ilies Octavian

**4 × 20 Pengő on court document** (75 dpi)

http://www.jaypex.com/NT/sighet.htm
**Sighet / Máramarossziget** **County Maramureş / Máramaros**

November 29, 1944

Overprinted by order of the postmaster with a handstamp carved by hand in wood. According to the Sighet protocol, the handstamp was burned after overprinting. Printed in black ink which generally bleeds through to the back of the stamp. All stamps in greenish-black ink (blue-green from the back) are forgeries.

Circular overprint **POSTA / 1944 / ROMÂNĂ**
In genuine overprints, the left leg of the
**M** of **ROMÂNĂ** is broken or missing

The Sighet protocol mentions only nine stamps (7 issued stamps plus 2 trial printings) as being overprinted. For many years, most catalogs (incorrectly) listed 13 stamps (10 plus 3 trials).

| | **Postage Stamps** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **No.** | **Value** | **Issue** | **Color** | **Scott** | **Michel** | **Quantity** |
| 1 | 8 fillér | 1943 Portraits/Crown | dark olive green | 607 | 711 | 150 |
| 2 | 10 fillér | 1943 Portraits/Crown | light brown | 608 | 712 | 250 |
| 3 | 12 fillér | 1943 Portraits/Crown | deep blue green | 609 | 713 | 250 |
| 4 | 18 fillér | 1943 Portraits/Crown | dark gray | 610 | 714 | 150 |
| 5 | 20 fillér | 1943 Portraits/Crown | chesnut brown | 611 | 715 | 250 |
| 6 | 30 fillér | 1944 St. Margaret | deep carmine | 620 | 753 | 230 |
| 7 | 1 Pengő | 1943 Portraits/Crown | green | 616 | 739 | 250 |

**2.** **3.** **4.** **6.** **7.**

| | **Trial Printings** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **No.** | **Value** | **Issue** | **Color** | **Scott** | **Michel** | **Quantity** |
| I | 30f+30f | 1944 Red Cross | henna | B172 | 750 | 10 |
| II | 50f+50f | 1944 Red Cross | brown violet | B173 | 751 | 10 |

**I.**

**II.**

No covers or genuinely used examples have ever been found. Some references claim that this issue was used on registered mail, while cash franking was employed for ordinary mail. Contradicting this, registered letters from Sighet in December 1944 have been found which employ only cash franking.

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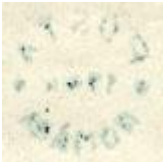
Forgeries

**All stamps in greenish-black ink (blue-green from the back) are <u>forgeries</u>.**



| | **Forgeries** (including unissued values), oily greenish-black ink | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **No.** | **Value** | **Issue** | **Color** | **Scott** | **Michel** | |
| F1 | 1 fillér | 1943 Portraits/Crown | greenish black | 601 | 705 | |
| F2 | 4 fillér | 1943 Portraits/Crown | brown | 604 | 708 | |
| F3 | 8 fillér | 1943 Portraits/Crown | dark olive green | 607 | 711 | |
| F4 | 10 fillér | 1943 Portraits/Crown | light brown | 608 | 712 | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F5 | 12 fillér | 1943 Portraits/Crown | deep blue green | 609 | 713 | |
| F6 | 18 fillér | 1943 Portraits/Crown | dark gray | 610 | 714 | |
| F7 | 20 fillér | 1943 Portraits/Crown | chesnut brown | 611 | 715 | |
| F8 | 30 fillér | 1944 St. Margaret | deep carmine | 620 | 753 | |
| F9 | 50 fillér | 1944 Kossuth | slate blue | 624 | 748 | |
| F10 | 1 Pengő | 1943 Portraits/Crown | green | 616 | 739 | |
| F-I | 30f+30f | 1944 Red Cross | henna | B172 | 750 | |
| F-II | 50f+50f | 1944 Red Cross | brown violet | B173 | 751 | |
| F-III | 70f+70f | 1944 Red Cross | Prussian blue | B174 | 752 | |

**F1.**

**F2.**

**F3.**

**F4.**

**F5.**

**F6.**

**F7.**

**F8.**

**F10.**

**F-II.**

**F9.**

http://www.jaypex.com/NT/oradea1.htm

**Oradea / Nagyvárad** **County Bihor / Bihar**

1. Overprinted Issues - January 27, 1945

Issued partly to provide needed higher denomination stamps, but mostly as a fund raising gimmick in order to obtain money to pay the salaries of postal employees. The complete series consists of 22 values (plus 8 postage dues), but only 11 values were sold at the post offices for the purpose of franking mail.
Overprinted in the "Grafika" (Sonnenfeld) print shop in Oradea.

**Issued Stamps**

| No. | Value | Issue | Color | Scott | Michel | Quantity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **60f/6f** | 1943 Portraits/Crown | slate blue | 606 | 710 | 2,100 |
| 2 | **60f/8f** | 1943 Portraits/Crown | dark olive green | 607 | 711 | 2,600 |
| 3 | **1P/1f** | 1943 Portraits/Crown | **greenish black** | 601 | 705 | 9,000 |
| 4 | **1P/2f** | 1943 Portraits/Crown | **red orange** | 602 | 706 | 300 |
| 5 | 1P/3f | 1943 Portraits/Crown | ultramarine | 603 | 707 | 300 |
| 6 | **1P/4f** | 1943 Portraits/Crown | brown | 604 | 708 | 17,600 |
| 7 | **1P/5f** | 1943 Portraits/Crown | vermilion | 605 | 709 | 4,800 |
| 8 | 1P/18f | 1943 Portraits/Crown | dark gray, red overprint | 610 | 714 | 27,600 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | **1P/30f** | 1944 St. Margaret | deep carmine | 620 | 753 | 1,900 |
| 10 | **2P/10f** | 1943 Portraits/Crown | light brown | 608 | 712 | 10,500 |
| 11 | 3P/20f | 1943 Portraits/Crown | chestnut brown | 611 | 715 | 5,800 |
| 12 | **3P/20f** | 1944 Famous Women | olive | 625 | 754 | 1,100 |
| 13 | **3P/30f** | 1943 Portraits/Crown | bright carmine | 613 | 736 | 12,100 |
| 14 | 3P/30f | 1944 St. Margaret | deep carmine | 620 | 753 | 5,300 |
| 15 | 3P/30f | 1944 Famous Women | copper red | 627 | 756 | 2,000 |
| 16 | 3P/80f | 1943 Portraits/Crown | yellow brown | 615 | 738 | 2,100 |
| 17 | 3P/80f | 1944 Famous Women | brown carmine | 630 | 759 | 1,200 |
| 18 | 4P/50f | 1943 Portraits/Crown | blue | 614 | 737 | 1,300 |
| 19 | 4P/50f | 1944 Famous Women | dark blue | 628 | 757 | 300 |
| 20 | 5P/12f | 1943 Portraits/Crown | deep blue green | 609 | 713 | 2,800 |
| 21 | 5P/24f | 1944 Famous Women | rose violet | 626 | 755 | 300 |
| 22 | 5P/1P | 1943 Portraits/Crown | green | 616 | 739 | 2,000 |
| | **Postage Due** | | | | | |
| 23 | 2P/2f | 1941-44 Numerals | brown red | J151 | P 144 | 794 |
| 24 | 2P/3f | 1941-44 Numerals | brown red | J152 | P 145 | 300 |
| 25 | 4P/4f | 1941-44 Numerals | brown red | J153 | P 146 | 800 |
| 26 | 4P/6f | 1941-44 Numerals | brown red | J154 | P 147 | 200 |
| 27 | 4P/8f | 1941-44 Numerals | brown red | J155 | P 148 | 100 |
| 28 | 4P/10f | 1941-44 Numerals | brown red | J156 | P 149 | 200 |
| 29 | 4P/12f | 1941-44 Numerals | brown red | J157 | P 150 | 100 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 30 | 4P/30f | 1941-44 Numerals | brown red | J162 | P 157 | 100 |

The total issue of no. 13 is sometimes erroneously reported as 121,000.

**60 fillér** overprints

**1 pengő** overprints

**2 pengő** overprint

**3 pengő** overprints

**4 pengő** overprints

**5 pengő** overprints

A variety of the 5P/24f stamp (no. 21) with missing numeral "5", listed in some references, has so far not been found on a genuine stamp

**2 pengő** overprints on Postage Dues

**4 pengő** overprints on Postage Dues

**Inverted Overprints**

Two sheets each of nos. 1-3 and 6-8 were produced for distribution to postal employees. One sheet of no. 9, and an additional 5 sheets of no. 8 were produced accidentally. The latter 5 sheets were among the stamps sold at the post offices. In addition, to make up a full sheet for no. 23, a strip of 6 (positions 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 and 60) was attached upside down to a partial sheet. This error was also sold at the post office.

| No. | Value | Issue | Color | Scott | Michel | Quantity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1a | **60f/6f** | 1943 Portraits/Crown | slate blue | 606 | 710 | 200 |
| 2a | **60f/8f** | 1943 Portraits/Crown | dark olive green | 607 | 711 | 200 |
| 3a | **1P/1f** | 1943 Portraits/Crown | **greenish black** | 601 | 705 | 200 |
| 6a | **1P/4f** | 1943 Portraits/Crown | brown | 604 | 708 | 200 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7a | **1P/5f** | 1943 Portraits/Crown | vermilion | 605 | 709 | 200 |
| 8a | 1P/18f | 1943 Portraits/Crown | dark gray, red overprint | 610 | 714 | 700 |
| 9a | **1P/30f** | 1944 St. Margaret | deep carmine | 620 | 753 | 100 |
| | **Postage Due** | | | | | |
| 23a | 2P/2f | 1941-44 Numerals | brown red | J151 | P 144 | 6 |

**Deliberately Produced**

**Sold at P.O.**

**Accidentally Produced, sold at P.O.**

**Position 50**

**Special Overprint in Gold Ink**

One sheet of no. 9 was overprinted in gold ink.

| No. | Value | Issue | Color | Scott | Michel | Quantity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9b | **1P/30f** | 1944 St. Margaret | deep carmine, gold ovpt. | 620 | 753 | 100 |

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**Overprint Types**

The stamps were overprinted in full sheets of 100. There was not quite enough type available to make 100 identical overprints, so the printers resorted to some font substitutions near the bottom of the sheet. This resulted in three easily-identifiable overprint types (only two types for nos. 1 and 2, the two 60 fillér overprints).

| **Type I** | **Type II** | **Type III** |
|---|---|---|
| Large numeral of value; Thick letters | Small numeral of value; Thick letters | Large numeral of value; Thin letters |

**Type I** occurs in positions 1-90 of nos. 1 and 2, and 1-75 and 81-90 of all other values

**Type II** occurs in positions 91-100 of all values

**Type III** occurs in positions 76-80 of nos. 3-30 only

**Quantities Issued by Overprint Type**

| No. | Type I | Type II | Type III | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1,890 | 210 | - | 2,100 |
| 1a | 180 | 20 | - | 200 |
| 2 | 2,340 | 260 | - | 2,600 |

| No. | Type I | Type II | Type III | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | 10,285 | 1,210 | 605 | 12,100 |
| 14 | 4,505 | 530 | 265 | 5,300 |
| 15 | 1,700 | 200 | 100 | 2,000 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2a | 180 | 20 | - | 200 |
| 3 | 7,650 | 900 | 450 | 9,000 |
| 3a | 170 | 20 | 10 | 200 |
| 4 | 255 | 30 | 15 | 300 |
| 5 | 255 | 30 | 15 | 300 |
| 6 | 14,960 | 1,760 | 880 | 17,600 |
| 6a | 170 | 20 | 10 | 200 |
| 7 | 4,080 | 480 | 240 | 4,800 |
| 7a | 170 | 20 | 10 | 200 |
| 8 | 23,460 | 2,760 | 1,380 | 27,600 |
| 8a | 595 | 70 | 35 | 700 |
| 9 | 1,615 | 190 | 95 | 1,900 |
| 9a | 85 | 10 | 5 | 100 |
| 9b | 85 | 10 | 5 | 100 |
| 10 | 8,925 | 1,050 | 525 | 10,500 |
| 11 | 4,930 | 580 | 290 | 5,800 |
| 12 | 935 | 110 | 55 | 1,100 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16 | 1,785 | 210 | 105 | 2,100 |
| 17 | 1,020 | 120 | 60 | 1,200 |
| 18 | 1,105 | 130 | 65 | 1,300 |
| 19 | 255 | 30 | 15 | 300 |
| 20 | 2,380 | 280 | 140 | 2,800 |
| 21 | 255 | 30 | 15 | 300 |
| 22 | 1,700 | 200 | 100 | 2,000 |
| | **Postage Due** | | | |
| 23 | 674 | 80 | 40 | 794 |
| 23a | 6 | - | - | 6 |
| 24 | 255 | 30 | 15 | 300 |
| 25 | 680 | 80 | 40 | 800 |
| 26 | 170 | 20 | 10 | 200 |
| 27 | 85 | 10 | 5 | 100 |
| 28 | 170 | 20 | 10 | 200 |
| 29 | 85 | 10 | 5 | 100 |
| 30 | 85 | 10 | 5 | 100 |

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**Distribution of Stamps**

While all of the issued stamps were valid for postage, not all of them were sold over the counter at post offices. The Oradea Postal Directorate also sold stamps in "packets" to collectors in order to raise money to pay the salaries of postal workers. Furthermore, some of these packets were given to postal workers as part of their compensation.

For most of the stamps which were only available in packets, multiples with joined types are virtually unknown. The blocks of 4 with Types I & II shown here were originally the property of Lajos Kis, a former Oradea postal official.

**1. Sold at Post Offices**

As mentioned above, 11 values were sold to the public at post offices. The vast majority of covers are franked with these stamps. Strips and blocks with joined types are frequently available. The inverted overprints nos. 8a and 9a were also inadvertently sold at post offices.

**2.**

**3.**

**6.**

**7.**

**8.**

**10.**

**11.** (bottom perfs doubled)

**13.**

**14.**

**20.**

**22.**

## 2. Face Value Packets

The Oradea Postal Directorate also sold face value "packets" containing a complete set of nos. 1-22 as well as a large number of the more common stamps. This was the only way to obtain copies of the remaining values, but the cost was high (486 Pengő). In addition, postal employees were each given 5 sets of nos. 1-22 as part of their compensation.

**1.**

**4.**

**5.**

9.

12.

15.

16.

17.

18.

**19.** **21.**

**Inverted overprint**
(sold in some face value packets)

**9a.**

## 3. Postage Due Stamps

Overprinted postage due stamps were intended for use as normal postage stamps. Any purchaser of 5 "packets" was also entitled to buy one set of nos. 23-30 at face value.

**23.**

**24.**

**25.**

**26.**

**27.** (shifted, Type III at top)

**28.**

**29.**

**30.**

## 4. Premium Packets

Postal employees only were also entitled to purchase special "premium" packets at five time face value. These lots contained 37 of the 39 different varieties, including the special gold overprint (no. 9b) and all of the inverted overprints except for the two accidentally produced varieties (i.e., all stamps except nos. 9a and 23a).

**9b.**

**1a.**

**2a.**

**3a.** (shifted overprint)

**6a.** **7a.** **8a.**

---

**Type III Overprints**

**3.**

**6.**

**7.**

**9.**

**10.**

**11.**

**13.**

**14.**

**15.**

**16.**

**17.**

**18.**

**20.**

**22.**

**23.**

**25.**

**Inverted Overprint**

**8a.**

**Vertical pairs with Types I + III**

**6.**

**8.**

**18.**

**Vertical pairs with Types III + I**

**10.**

**13.**

**Blocks and strips showing all three Types (III + I + II)**

**7.**

**10.**

13.

14.

23.

24.

25.

**Horizontal Pairs with Type I + Type III occur once per sheet**

3.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

15.

16.

17.

**18.**

**20.**

**22.**

---

**Varieties**
**Printing date (inverted overprint)**

**8a.**
**Shifted overprints**

**22.**

**3.**

**16.**

(See also the last cover on this page.)

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**Forgeries**

All three overprint types, including inverted overprints, have been counterfeited using original type. There are subtle differences in some letters (especially the **p** and **g**) and the color of the ink, but the easiest way to identify the forgeries is by measuring the height of the overprint. The genuine overprints are about 0.5 mm taller than the forged overprints.

**Genuine Type III** **Forgery Type III**

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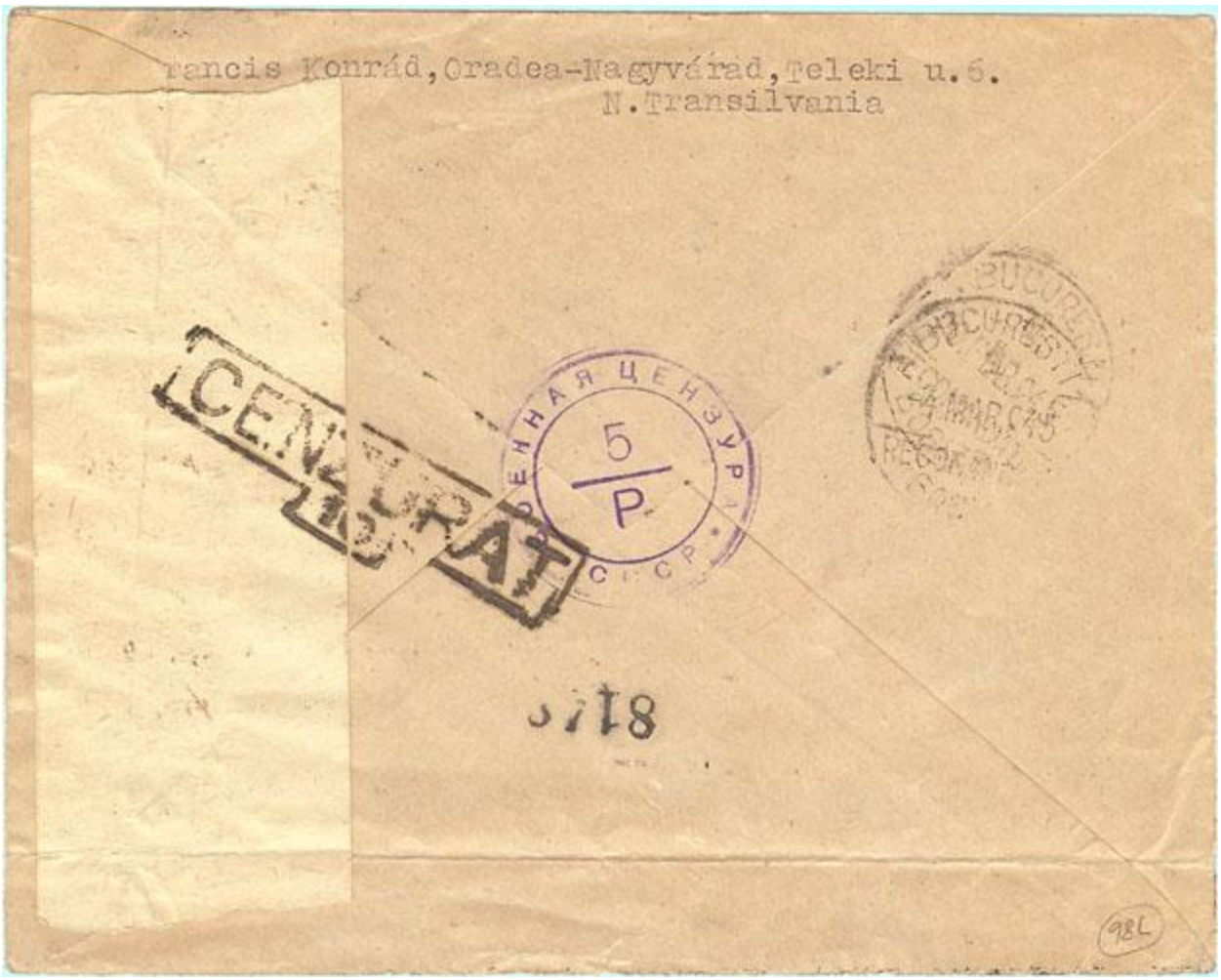
**Covers**

The Oradea issue was also used in the following localities:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aleşd | / | Élesd |
| Baia Mare | / | Nagybánya |
| Bratca | / | Barátka |
| Săcueni | / | Székelyhid |
| Salonta | / | Nagyszalonta |
| Satu Mare | / | Szatmárnemeti |

Hungarian postmarks were used. A straight line provisional cancel was also used at Baia Mare
All covers shown here were used in Oradea with Nagyvárad 1 or Nagyvárad 3 postmarks

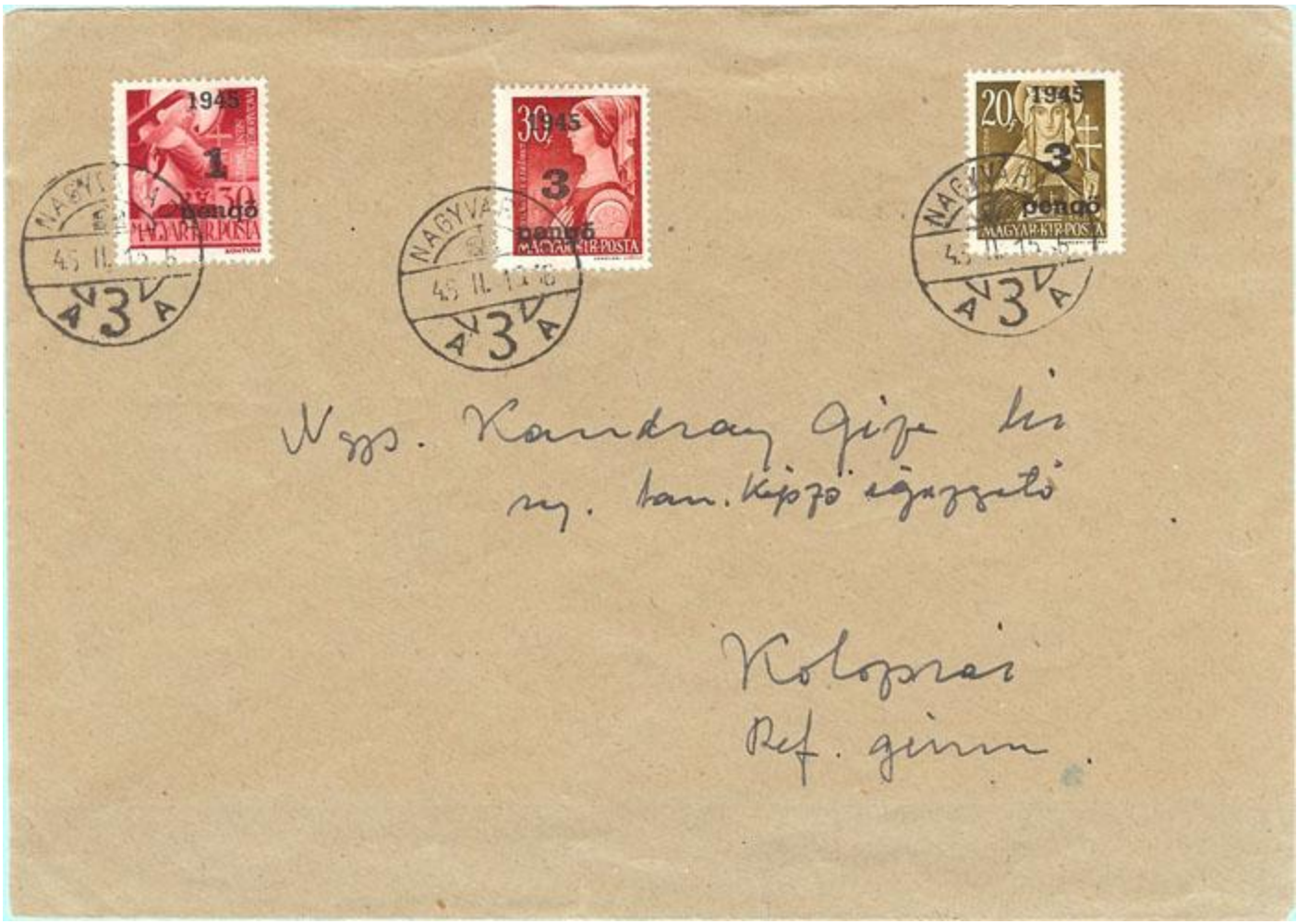
**Feb. 14, 1945 - Oradea to Landskrona (Sweden), registered (nos. 6, 7, 8, 10)**
**From Francis Konrád, author of the first catalog of Northern Transylvania stamps (1947)**




**Romanian and Soviet censor marks; Feb. 20 & Mar. 4 Bucharest transit postmarks (presumable censorship took place between those dates)**
**No dated arrival postmark (as per Swedish practice)**

**March 7, 1945 Post card to Balázsfalva in Hungary (no. 6)**

**Feb. 5, 1945 Formular use of 12 fillér postal card, to Arad (Hungary) Buchares t censor and Feb. 20 Arad arrival postmark (nos. 8, 10, 14)**




**Feb. 15, 1945 - to Cluj / Kolozsvar, Nagyvárad 3 postmark (nos. 9, 15, 12)**
**All three stamps are from the face value packets, i.e. they were not sold at post offices**

**March 7, 1945 - Mar. 11 Cluj postmark on reverse (no. 6)**
**Cover with inverted overprint**

**Feb. 5, 1945 - to Bucharest, top right stampwith inverted overprint (nos. 11, 8a / 14, 10 / 8, 13)**
**Feb. 13 arrival postmark on reverse**
**Covers with Type II overprints**

**Feb. 9, 1945 - Formular use of 18 fillér postal card,**
**to Cluj / Kolozsvar with Feb. 12 arrival postmark (no. 2II)**

**March 5, 1945 - to Debrecen (Hungary) (nos. 15, 13II, 10)**
**No. 15 was sold only as part of the face value packets**

**Feb. 4, 1945**
**Local letter, same day**
**arrival postmark on reverse**

**Feb. 4, 1945**
**Registered philatelic card addressed to Nagykerekí (Hungary)**
**(nos. 11II, 13II, 16II / 22, 18, 22)**
**Upper right stamp (16II) is missing '1945' due to vertical overprint shift**
**Nos. 16II and 18**

**were sold only as part of the face value packets**

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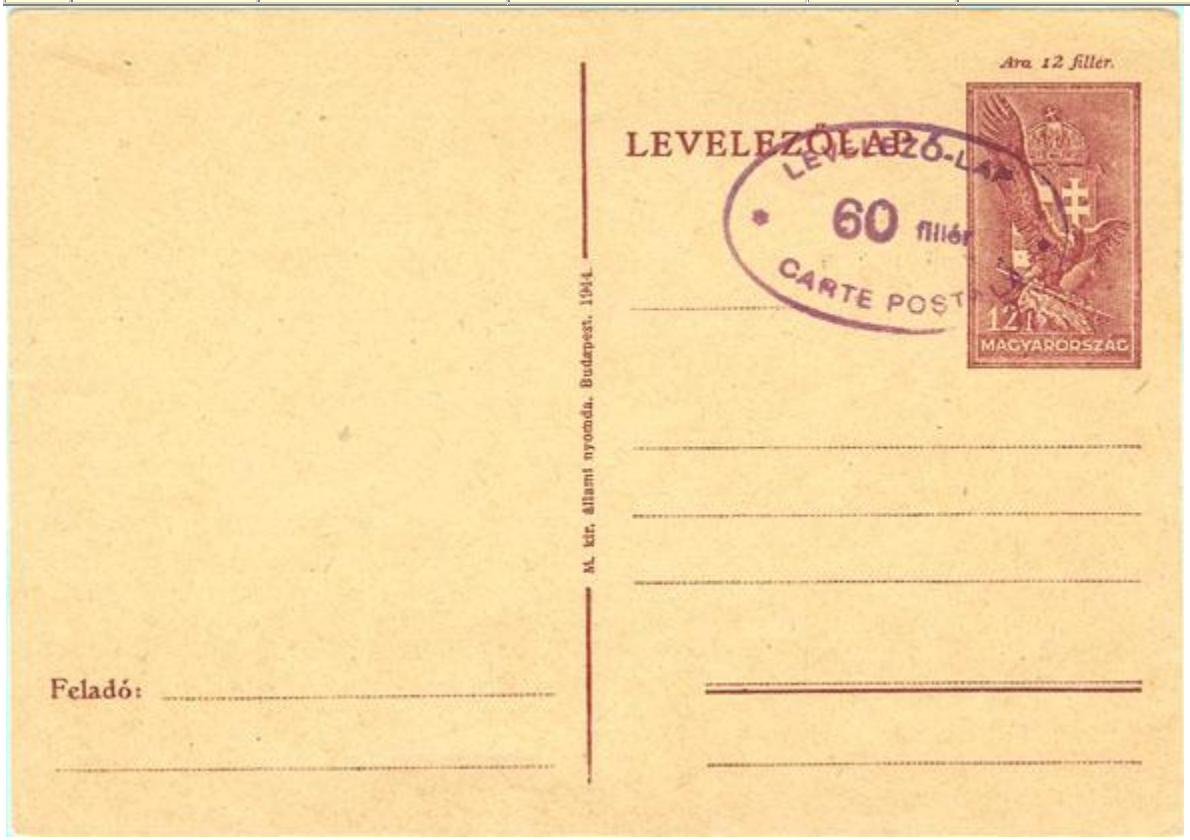
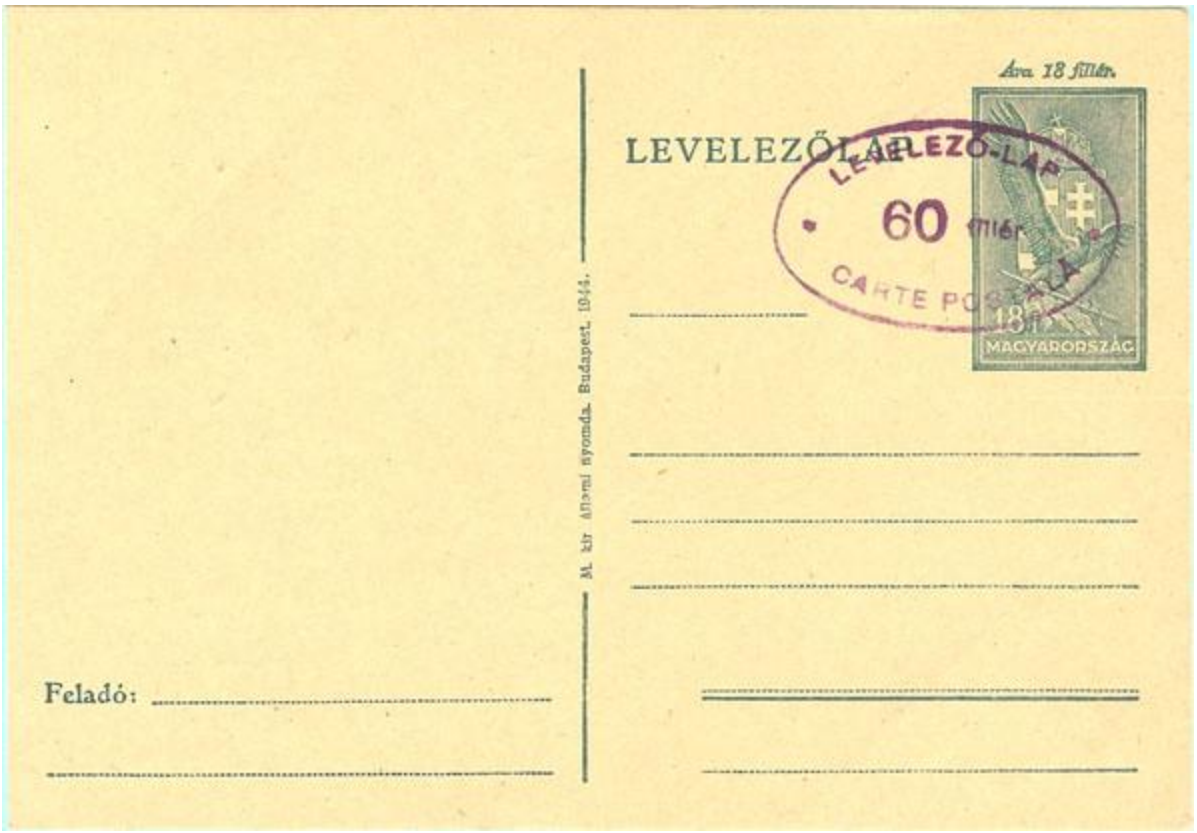
**Postal Cards**

Allegedly produced at the same time as the overprinted stamps. No genuinely used copies have been found.

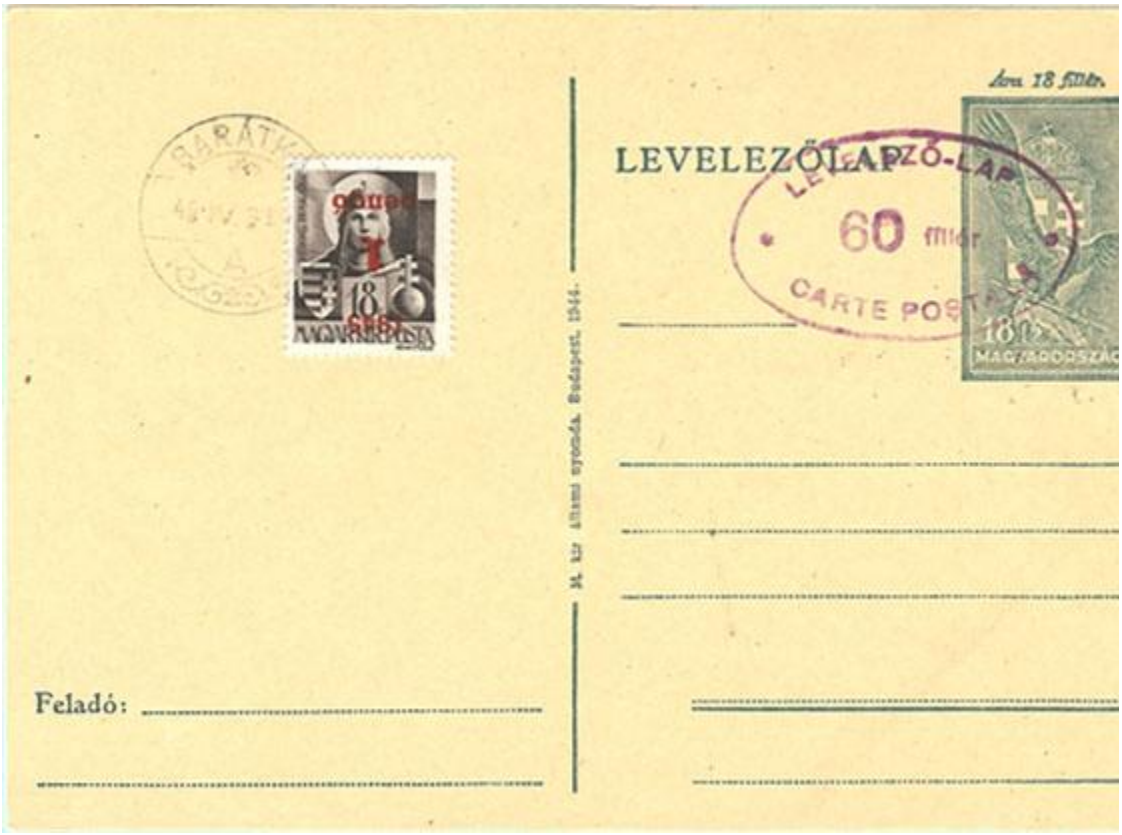
| No. | Value | Issue | Description | Michel | Quantity |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PC1 | 60 fillér/12f | 1943-44 Turul | brown red | P 111 | "a few" |
| PC2 | 60 fillér/18f | 1943-44 Turul | dark green | P 112 | "a few thousand" |



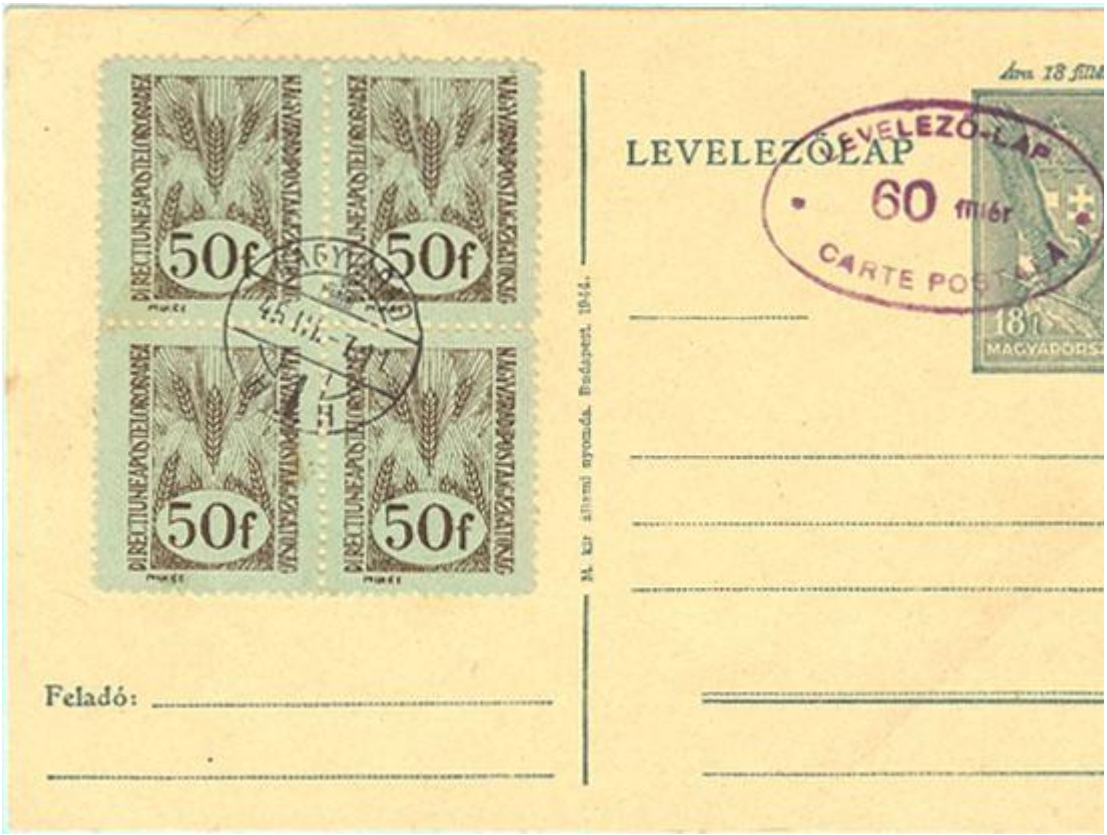

**PC1.**




**PC2.**
**CTO Postal Cards**




**PC2 with CTO copy of no. 8a (inverted ovpt.) April 3, 1945 Barátka postmark**




**PC2 with CTO block of no. 35A (second issue) March 7, 1945 Nagyvárad postmark First Day !**

http://www.jaypex.com/NT/satu-m.htm

**Satu Mare / Szatmárnémeti** **County Satu Mare / Szatmár**

Early 1945

The Jewish population of Satu Mare was 12,960 in 1941. The Horthy administration at first sent Jews to forced labor camps, but by 1944 the entire Jewish population had been sent to Auschwitz. Only a few hundred survived the war. To raise funds to aid the returning refugees, the municipal council of Satu Mare issued two revenue stamps to be used on legal documents. The stamps were perforated through the middle so that one half could be attached to the legal document and the other half to a receipt. The bilingual text on the stamps translates to "For the Deported". Quantities printed are not known.

| No. | Value | Description |
|---|---|---|
| R1 | 100 Lei | bluish gray on greenish paper |
| R2 | 200 Lei | red on greenish paper |